

Bavarian News

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U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

March 12, 2008



Fuel cards replace coupons

by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

Motorists throughout U.S. Army Europe will replace their Army and Air Force Exchange Service fuel coupons with the new fuel ration cards beginning in July.

Drivers will load a cash balance onto their fuel ration card, similar in appearance to a credit card, at any AAFES shopette/gas station, post exchange, by bank allotment, online, or by phone transfer.

Once money is loaded onto the card, it can be used to pay for fuel on post or off post at Esso stations. The cardholder will present the card, along with the vehicle registration, to the cashier. Once the card is swiped, the liter/cash balance will be automatically deducted from the pre-paid balance that was loaded on the card.

The process is fairly simple and straight forward, said AAFES' Chris Litch, the visual merchandise manager for Grafenwoehr's Consolidated Exchange.

"The big difference and the really important thing for people to remember is that they're responsible for keeping track of how many liters they have on their card," said Litch.

He said if a motorist has enough cash loaded on his card to purchase 25 liters of fuel, and he pumps 26 liters off post at an Esso station, he will be required to pay the German fuel price for the full 26 liters. The same goes for on post overages, said Litch. If the balance on the card does not cover the full amount pumped, motorist will not be allowed to pay for part of the fuel in cash and part with the card.



The AAFES fuel ration card will be distributed to registered U.S. Army Europe motorists through the fall.

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Daddy's home!



Photo by Troy Darr

Staff Sgt. Rogelio Murillo reunites with his wife, Sandra, and daughters, Allesandra (right) and Emma (left) after returning from Afghanistan Feb. 25.

2SCR Soldier receives Bronze Star for heroism

by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

A Bronze Star Medal for Valor, when simply looked at, is one and a half inches in circumscribing diameter. It hangs from a one and three-eighths inches wide ribbon consisting of white, scarlet, and ultramarine blue stripes alternating in color.

When simply looked at, the words "Heroic or Meritorious Achievement" may go unnoticed, and a "V" which sits amongst the colors of the ribbon may be unseen. When simply looked at, the medal hangs like all others off the chest of a service member.

When simply looked at, one may not understand that the Soldier wearing it is truly a hero.

Staff Sgt. Frederick Rowell, of Echo Company, 2nd Squadron, 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment earned the right to join the hallowed ranks of military hero when he received the Bronze Star Medal for Valor Feb. 13.

See **ROWELL** Page 27



Before receiving his recently awarded Bronze Star, Staff Sgt. Frederick Rowell was awarded the Silver Star by President George Bush for actions during his first deployment.

Courtesy photo

World War II anti-aircraft gun unearthed on post

by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

Contract workers unearthed a German 20mm World War II anti-aircraft gun Feb. 21 while digging a utilities trench behind the Department of Logistics building located on the Grafenwoehr training area.

Digging immediately stopped and authorities, as well as the 702nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, were notified.

EOD Team Leader Staff Sgt.

Jonathan Ferraro said the situation called for extreme caution.

"As soon as we rolled up on the scene, we saw that there were settling tanks and propane tanks where they were digging," said Ferraro.

"We immediately had to address those hazards," he said. "They act as enhancers. If there was a bomb there it would actually intensify the explosion."

The three-man EOD team inspected the weapon system to

ensure the barrels were safe and free of projectiles.

"It was difficult at first because they were so rusted over and corroded," he said.

Team members determined the weapon, a 2 cm FlaK 30, did not pose a threat.

"The metal was so eaten," Ferraro remarked, "that whenever you chiseled off a piece it would either break or crumble."

Ferraro and his team released the weapon and it was removed.



Photo by Susanne Bartsch

An EOD team inspected the 20mm gun before declaring it safe.

Q&A

What is your *ultimate* spring break?



Andre Beaulieu
(Garmisch)
"The coast of Spain, Barcelona."

Tech Sgt. David Honsinger
(RAF Mildenhall)
"I'd probably take a cruise with my family."



Gabi Ballard
(Garmisch)
"I'd go swimming at the Alpspitz schwimmbad in Garmisch. It's too expensive to go to the Mediterranean."

Jay Pagen
(Garmisch)
"The Great Wall of China. I've been in Germany and Europe for over 27 years and the ultimate spring break for me is to walk from one side to the other."



Jose Valdez
(Garmisch)
"I'd go to the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, that area, for about a month straight!"

Will Guilford
(Garmisch)
"I'd go home to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to vote for Hillary in the primary!"



Jonathon Henderson
(Ramstein AFB)
"This is it, here in Garmisch. We hit the slopes yesterday."

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Henry
(Garmisch)
"Atlanta, Ga., just to party."



AAFES' new fuel ration card program begining in summer

As I write this, my windows are open because it is sunny and 60 degrees. Of course the weatherman threatens snow this weekend and even though we have had two mild winters in a row, we are in Grafenwoehr and anything is possible. So, off to the column...

Fuel Card

After a painful eight years of negotiations, we will retire fuel coupons and introduce fuel cards for use in Germany. Designed to retain the reduced fee fuel (because if we hadn't switched to the new program, we may have had to pay European fuel costs), the fuel ration card will take some time to get used to.



It has two components. The first component is the actual fuel ration (400 or 600 liters per month). The second component is the amount of money placed against the card known as the pre-position cash value.

Unlike coupon use today, the fuel ration (400-600 liters) cannot be transferred from one month to the next. You will, however, be able to transfer the pre-position cash value you put on the card. Card benefits include:

- Saving time: No lengthy purchase transactions for each book of coupons
- Multiple payment options: Online, AAFES Shoppettes/gas stations, bank allotment, telephone transfer.
- No more "squeezing" at the pump to equal the exact coupon amount.
- No signatures since you don't have to sign each coupon
- Safe and secure: Lost coupons meant lost cash while the new ration card protects your investment
- No expired coupons at the end of each

year

■ Retains ration card authorization for U.S. population

There are some challenges with the program to include remembering another pin for a card, card can only be used for fuel and only ESSO stations will honor it (not ARAL), and remembering how much fuel and cash value is left on the card before you start pumping.

We are scheduled to receive the new cards in the July/August timeframe. We also expect a team to arrive in the spring to help better explain the program. For more information, visit

www.imcom-europe.army.mil/sites/local/ or www.imcom-europe.army.mil/sites/news/fuelcard.asp.

Environmental Zones

Effective Jan. 1, 2008, certain German cities have established environmental zones (Umweltzonen) that govern the type of vehicle allowed to travel in that area. Among them are Berlin, Hannover, Cologne, Stuttgart, and Mannheim with many more cities to follow.

Personnel risk a 40 Euro fine and a point in the traffic registry if they do not have the necessary red, yellow, or green sticker placed in the lower right portion of their front window which indicates the zones they're allowed to drive in.

The color of sticker you receive is based on the age of the engine of your vehicle and its carbon dioxide output. The stickers are available at all vehicle registration points along with further information. I advise all of you to obtain these stickers before travelling

into these cities.

Demonstration

Some German citizens will exercise their right to demonstrate this month. One demonstration will be held near the Grafenwoehr gates.

The garrison Department of Emergency Services and the local police are aware and are developing plans to handle the impacts of the demonstration.

We believe it will be very similar to last year's demonstration during which German police outnumbered the demonstrators 2 to 1.

Please pay attention to the weekly digital garrison newsletter and electronic news bulletin in which we will announce the actions we will take.

Let me join the commanding general of USAREUR and say thank you for your generous donations to the 2007 Combined Federal Campaign. Over \$2.3 million dollars were pledged and the average donation was more than \$160. These

are the highest amounts USAREUR has ever achieved, and what is especially amazing is the fact we had 10,000 donors less this year compared to last year. Thank you for helping USAREUR make a difference and for helping to make our community the best place to live and serve in Europe.

Col. Brian T. Boyle
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr

“Designed to retain the reduced fee fuel (because if we hadn't switched to the new program, we may have had to pay European fuel costs), the fuel ration card will take some time to get used to.”

Motorcyclists: Start your brain!

USAG Grafenwoehr Safety Office

As a reminder to motorcycle riders, operating a motorcycle is a 90 percent skill of the mind and 10 percent a skill of the hands and feet.

For those of you that have been languishing on a couch for most of the last four months, getting your mind thinking about operating a motorcycle again should be a priority to ensure a safe and enjoyable riding season.

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Safety will be hosting motorcycle safety awareness training every Wednesday during the month of March.

The sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Bldg. 4214 in Camp Kasserine. Training is open to all USAREUR licensed motorcyclists. Bldg. 4214 is located next to the motorcycle training range.

The classes will be in a group discussion format and use an

approved Motorcycle Safety Foundation curriculum facilitated by trained MSF rider coaches. Since this is a classroom setting, motorcycles are not required.

The Army is off to a less than enviable 19 Class "A" accidents this fiscal year compared to nine for the same time frame last year.

No two loss reports are alike, but it is safe to assume that poor decision making was a key factor in the majority of accidents. Don't become a statistic!

Take the opportunity to get your mind geared up for operating a motorcycle safely and help protect your riding privileges in Europe by having a safe, uneventful summer.

Unit leadership is encouraged to support this discretionary training by allowing maximum participation of licensed motorcyclists.

Contact the Garrison Grafenwoehr Safety Office at DSN 475-1470 for more information.

Don't depend on dumb luck—designate a sober driver before the party begins

USAG Grafenwoehr Safety Office

For many Americans, St. Patrick's Day has become a popular night out to celebrate with friends and family. Unfortunately, due to the large volume of impaired drivers, the night out has also become very dangerous.

Last year on St. Patrick's Day, nearly half (44 percent) of the 105 U.S. drivers and motorcyclists involved in the fatal crashes had a blood alcohol content of .08 or above. That's why the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Safety Office wants to remind all those who plan on celebrating during the St. Patrick's Day festivities to drink responsibly.

"Whether you are meeting a few friends at the local pub after work or are attending a party, if you plan on using alcohol, never drive while impaired—and never let your friends

drive if you think they are impaired," said Michael Schwarz, Grafenwoehr's Safety Officer.

Following these easy steps, a driver can enjoy a safe St. Patrick's Day without jeopardizing their life and the lives of the others who may be on the road.

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, please designate a sober driver and give that person your keys;
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely;
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact your local law enforcement;
- And remember, if you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired,

take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

Impaired driving is one of America's deadliest problems. In 2006, 42,642 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes. Out of that number 13,470 people were killed in traffic crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcyclist with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher.

"Driving impaired or riding with someone who is impaired is simply not worth the risk," said Schwarz. "Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be really significant."

Don't depend on dumb luck this St. Patrick's Day. Designate your sober driver before the party begins.

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

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Grafenwoehr Middle School announces its 2nd quarter honor roll

Almomory, Nadia H	Bonter, Nicholas G	Thornbrugh, Sage M	Argueta, Lauren K	Watts, Brandi C
Alombro, John M	Burbelo, Elsa E	Tilzey, Stephen D	Brunson, Kelsi	DeWitt, Anthony C
Alston, Logan N	Burger, Amber	Grier, Karen S	Burger, Chelsey E	Hamm, Haley A
Ashline, Kaitlyn R	Cooper, Katharine E	Hambrick, Nichole D	Cass, Emilie E	Castillo, Joshlyn A
Balestrine, Keelena B	Cooper, Zachary J	Hendricks, Taylor R	Cormier, Mark A	Hall, Jesse
Banister, Vannesa M	Dunivan, Andrew J	Koroma, Jessica C	Criss, Kaylee B	Johnson, Shyah N
Barry, Caitlin M	Edwards, Quinton C	Lopez Santana, Paola A	Dahlberg, Cheyenne C	Kelly, Alischa H
Castillo, Elizabeth V	Ferguson, Starr	Pharris, Jaiden R	Degollado, Bethany J	Kimble, Ronnisha A
Chroman, Connor G	Hoffmann, Joshua C	Triplett, LaBrittany M	Fassett, Jacquelyn M	Kraemer, Noah P
Coleman, Chiara D	Holland, Amber S	Velez, Sydney J	Kirk, Tyler A	Watson, Tyler M
Cudjoe, Candice M	Koslosky, Chris L	Watson, Taylor B	Morris, Melissa H	Ziegelhofer, Jason T
Florendo, Devin M	Luuga, Manusamoa J	Williams, Ashley S	Neuser, Katharina M	Albright, Sharon N
Gallardo, Gabriel R	Majors, Kyla R	Wilson, Shandra E	O'Neal, Aysha B	Bradley, Sarah
Hogg, Aaron P	Roberts, Lisa-Marie N	Woodson, Brandy J	Pinkney, India C	Castro-O'Conner, Nian N
Jessop, Stephanie M	Rodriguez, Rosemarie	Callaghan McCann, Michaela V	Pomares Echevarria, Marian	Conley, Jesse J
Lawrence, Nicholas R	Russell, Jared P	Russell, Tylor J	Porter, Kevin A	Dean, Johnathan M
Manzo, Emily E	Self, Elizabeth L	Graves, Zaine V	Villalon, Benjamin D	Figueroa, Savannah M
Markos, Megan N	Smith, Nancy V	Haas, Tabitha M	Whitney, Patrick A	Florance, Kyle M
Martin, Jacob A	Whyte, Gavrielle M	Howard, Shralondra A	Wood, John C	Graves, Taylor H
Mason, Katherine E	Cavazos, Sarah	Lavallais Hocker, Ashley R	Wrolson, Ty D	Kirby, Gloria R
McCrary, Jordan D	Collins, Hannah L	Lee, Uriel E	Cook, Michael P	Leming, Thomas F
Mills, Gabriella N	Corder, Jessica F	Leming, Christian D	Ferguson, Jeremiah J	Lopez, Alexandria E
Neely, Rebecca A	Gonzalez, Astrid C	Malec, Elizabeth	Gray, Chante M	McIntire, Ashlea G
Nelson, Michael B	Jones, Samuel O	Martinez, Adrian S	MarcouxBeatty, Harrison R	Ramos, Victor J
Nelson, Benjamin A	Nguyen, William	Orange, Bryan K	Moore, Aspen T	Speelman, Alicia M
Peterson, Kristine V	Riegel, Jacquelyn D	Rodriguez, Stephanie	Muhlenbeck, Paige C	Stacey, Nadine H
Rabuck, Caitlin R	Schmoll, Chrystin L	Royal, Chasity E	Sanchez, Gail L	Thomas, London D
Ragay, Michelle C	Steffe, Haylie C	Smith, Sharon A	Thompson, Ethan R	VanWinkle, Katlyn C
Ramirez, Phillip	Webster, Sarah J	Vance, Bianca M	Wiggins, Arderrick	White, Katelyn R
Robinson, Taylor D	Wigton, Michael J	Villanueva, Jose A	Williams, Roderick K	Almomory, Saad H
Rodriguez, Mincy N	Ybay, Ryu K	Costa, Kennedy L	Borrero, David	Castleberry, Rachel K
Romero, Juan A	Bartow, Nathaniel A	Cundy, Fabian P	Brown, Shelby J	Centamore, Ciara
Schaffer, Sarah E	Black, Abigail	Destine Cesar, Lynnsey	Campbell, Carlton A	Collins, Meleecha N
Singh, Deepika A	Cardona Tejera, Heidi	Gripentrog, Chelsea B	Clark, Javanna C	Hickman, Darius J
Skiddle, Erica R	Castro, Georgianna A	Jacobsen, Taylor A	Kozma, Kimberly A	Johnston, Jessica A
South, Tracey A	Cooper, Jared L	Kendzierski, Megan M	Lagow, Johnathan J	Kamara, Abdul L
Spiritity, Belinda G	Cormier, Christopher M	Newcomer, Taylor D	Miller, Jonathan N	Levasseur, Christopher R
Tanner, Vivian J	Davidson, Alisha N	Pomele, Zaroxolyn-Chloe S	Morrison, Jay B	Luuga, Sarahfina V
Touzinsky, Andrew T	Hargis, Shania N	Randle, Meraleigh A	Norris, William L	Lyde, Darre'Auna
Vertz, Kiana S	Maitner, Amy C	Rivera, Raul D	Prater, Rebekah K	Owens, Olivia M
Villali, Danielle T	Naterlin, Michael R	Ryner, Dennis C	RodriguezArgueta, Marcella K	Rivera, Gibran S
Warren, Angelica M	Powers, Stefanie U			Schafer, Shawn L
Wills, Courtney C	Rodriguez, Elizabeth M			Watson, Damon L
Baker, Bradley P				Watson, Leah K

Spotlight on Education



Name: Nancy Clayton

What grade / subject do you teach? Social Studies at Wuerzburg High School

Hometown: Carson City, Nev.

How long have you been a teacher? 34 years (20 in DoDDS)

What do you like best about teaching? I like the kids' personalities and the variety that the job offers. Kids are great to work with. They are challenging but not in a bad way. I love to watch their minds work.

What advice can you give students to help them succeed in school? Take responsibility. Do what you're supposed to do.

VES students on track to read to Iraq and back

Red Hot Reader challenge could end with principal in full 'battle rattle'

Story and photo by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

The Vilseck Elementary School principal vowed March 3 to dress in full combat uniform and recite a reading cadence as she marched through the halls all day if students “Read to Iraq and Back” during the school’s month-long Red Hot Readers program.

Red Hot Readers cheerleaders and students applauded as Principal Nancy Hammack announced the reward and challenged the student body to read a total of 404,520 minutes during the month of March.

Program organizers established the theme, “Read to Iraq and Back – The March is On,” and set the goal at the number of kilometers to Iraq and back, multiplied by 60 minutes in an hour.

Hammack, who sat on the school roof and read for an entire school day last year after students met her challenge, said this year’s theme adds a personal and exciting aspect for the students.

“I think what’s especially fun this time is that we are aligning it with the reading to Iraq...about 80 percent of our population has a deployed

parent,” she said.

For fourth-grader Jaci Reynolds, whose father is deployed to Iraq, the theme provides additional motivation.

“The program makes me excited because I want to support him,” she said.

Students should not feel overwhelmed by the almost half a million minutes needed to reach the goal according to Program Coordinator Johnetta Gillies.

“It should be reachable...we surpassed the number last year.”

To reach the goal, students record the number of minutes they read each day on a readometer. VES faculty members tally the numbers every Thursday to determine how many minutes each student and each class has read.

Students and class members with the highest total minutes will be awarded prizes at the Red Hot Readers final assembly March 31.

Students totaling 2,092 minutes, the distance to Iraq in miles, before the assembly will be declared Medallion Readers and awarded a prize.

Other prizes include free books as well as monetary awards for greatest

number of minutes read by a class.

The school offered additional opportunities for students to earn miles and reach their goal.

Bedtime Stories participants earned a 90-minute bonus coupon when they attended the parent and child evening story time March 7.

Individual students will earn bonus miles Monday when they dress up as their favorite book character and throughout the month if they prepare a book project to be displayed in the reading showcase located in the Information Center.

Classrooms earned additional minutes by participating in literacy trivia and by decorating their doors. Future opportunities for classes to earn minutes include the Readers Theater March 21, March 24, and March 26-27.

The Red Hot Readers objective, Gillies explained, goes beyond having students meet a challenge and earn prizes.

“What we want them to do is value reading as a part of their life,” she said.

The value of reading has become a tradition at the school where students have met the challenge for the past 20 years.



First-graders Zakkariah Lappi (left) and Myka Smith (right) react to the program news during the Red Hot Reader kick-off assembly March 3.

Hammack views the program as a tradition for the community as well. Last year, military members read to students from the back of a Stryker vehicle, and Soldiers returned this year to lead the students in a cadence during the kick-off assembly.

“We hope that the community will take a look at this and assist us in driving forward in reading a lot of minutes,” Hammack said. “It is a tremendous number that we’ll be pushing our students toward this year.”



Kindergartner Ta'Shara Karlsson helps locate the evil puppet witch when Weiden police officers performed at Grafenwoehr Elementary School Feb. 27.

German police perform puppet show for Grafenwoehr Elementary students

Story and photo by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

German police officers shattered the silence in the Grafenwoehr Elementary School library Feb. 27 when they performed a safety-based puppet show for Sure Start, kindergarten and first-grade students.

The 45-minute show centered on three puppet characters and emphasized pedestrian safety with the use of colored lights, sound effects, and a fog machine.

Students cheered as the four-man performance team from the Weiden Police Department used a fairytale plot to teach crosswalk safety as well as where children should play and ride their bikes.

Elfriede Kean, GES’ host nation teacher, worked with police officials on the translation and script to ensure the children had fun as they learned traffic laws.

Former Werner Hopfer, Weiden police public affairs official, stated police members had fun as well.

“We have a lot of fun with the kids,” said Hopfer. “They are very interested in the puppet show and make (it) a lot of fun for us.”

This marks the fourth year police members entertained students at GES and the first year at Vilseck Elementary School where the officers performed Feb. 26.

Community remembers fallen 2SCR Soldier

by **SETH ROBSON**
Stars & Stripes, Mideast Edition

Spc. Orlando A. Perez was a loving son, a faithful husband, a loyal friend, and a brave infantryman who hoped to attend college and start a family when he got home.

Perez was killed in action Feb. 24 in Baghdad. His unit, the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment held a memorial service for him Feb. 29.

"How lucky we were to know and serve with Tony Perez," said Lt. Col. Tom Rickard, the regiment's rear detachment commander.

Perez was born Dec. 10, 1984, in Houston. He enlisted in the Army on Aug. 25, 2005, joined 2SCR in Fort Lewis, Wash., and moved to Vilseck, Germany, with the unit.

"Spc. Perez participated in numerous ranges, live-fire exercises and situational training

exercises (in Germany)," according to the program for the ceremony.

Capt. Raul Vasquez, the 2nd Squadron, 2SCR rear detachment commander, had teary eyes as he stood in the rain outside the chapel after the ceremony.

During the ceremony he said he was experiencing the same emotions he felt at ceremonies for two other fallen 2SC Soldiers, Sgt. 1st Class Randy Lewis Johnson and Spc. Avealao Milo.

Johnson, 34, of Washington, died Sept. 27, 2007, in Baghdad when a roadside bomb exploded near his vehicle and Milo, 23, of

American Samoa, was killed Oct. 4, 2007, when he and his fellow Soldiers came under small-arms fire.

Vasquez said the best word to describe Perez was "friend."

"He was looking to go to college and start a family when he came back from Iraq," he said.

Perez used rest and recuperation leave from Iraq to spend a week with his mother, Nicolasa Arevalo, in New York and a week with his wife, April, in Texas, Vasquez said during the ceremony.

"Tony never let April forget his perpetual love for her," he said.

On the battlefield Perez was the first to clear rooms, he said.

"Why (did Perez die) at the young age of 23? Why after only seven months of marriage? Why before (having) ... children," Vasquez asked.

However, Perez accomplished his primary mission in life, Vasquez said. "Your mother is

proud, and April knows you are her immortal love," he said.

Perez is also survived by a brother, Edward Marta, and a sister, Angelica Marta, according to the program.

“ Your mother is proud, and April knows you are her immortal love. ”

Capt. Raul Vasquez
2nd Squadron rear detachment commander



Perez

23rd Ordnance Soldiers get tips on Iraqi culture

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. ADAM V. SHAW
16th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

When searching Iraqi nationals entering a forward operating base, or meeting with local leaders, or just interacting with Iraqis on a day-to-day basis, it is important for Soldiers to understand cultural differences.

So on this day, Soldiers from the 23rd Ordnance Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, learned a few tips that could help them avoid creating an international incident or hurting America's image in the region during a cultural awareness class at Grafenwoehr's Tower Theater Feb. 29.

"We're here to give the Soldiers a bit of culture," said Chief Warrant Officer Charles Hillyer, maintenance technician, 23rd OD Co.

Hillyer gave a one-hour class on Iraqi culture as part of the ordnance company's training day, which also included equal opportunity training, sexual assault prevention and drivers' training.

The culture class covered a variety of areas, including the differences among the region's religions, the Muslim family dynamic and the local dress.

"Soldiers get to see the diversity of people and customs," said 1st Sgt. Patricio Cardona, 23rd OD Co.

Soldiers learned not to shake hands with their left hand, not to talk about women or pets, not to tell jokes, not to show the bottom of their boots to Iraqis, and other unique cultural traits.

Cardona said that the things his Soldiers learn in the class will help them on the battlefield.

The class also discussed common factors between Americans and Iraqis.

"Iraqi's are similar in many ways," said Hillyer, a three-time Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran. "It's very important for the head-of-household to provide for their families and we can all understand that."

Even with the similarities, it was the differences that stuck out in one Soldier's mind.

"I knew some of the stuff before,

but some of the gestures that could be offensive were new to me," said Pvt. Amber Booth, ammunition specialist, 23rd OD Co. "I don't want to offend anyone."

During the training, many of the Soldiers talked about their experiences working with the Iraqi people during previous deployments, and the importance of understanding the cultural differences.

"Prior knowledge of the type of people we will be working with will help us harness a working relationship," said Cardona.

Cardona also said that if Soldiers use what they have learned, the Iraqis will return the same respect.

Chief Warrant Officer Charles Hillyer, maintenance technician, 23rd OD Co., 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, teaches ordnance Soldiers Iraqi culture at the Tower Theater in Grafenwoehr, Feb. 29.



Photo by 1st Lt. Tiffany Bilderback

Displaced family returns home

Lt. Col. Robert McAleer, Jack Myer, and Commander Melinda Michael talk with a family that returned to their home in Agur Quf, a town northwest of Baghdad. The 21-member family said they felt the area was now safe enough to return to. McAleer serves as the commander of Fires Squadron, 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment, and is a native of Sequim, Wash. Myer is a native of Boston, Mass., and serves with the United States Agency for International Development. Michael serves as a liaison officer with the United States Agency for International Development and Baghdad Provincial Reconstruction Team.



Photo by Nick D'Amario

Dagger Soldiers, families get 'in the know' at Grafenwoehr

Col. Brian T. Boyle, U. S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr commander, and Lt. Col. Joe Sledd, deputy commanding officer for the Dagger Brigade, hosted a Q&A session in Grafenwoehr's Tower View Theater for 200 visiting Soldiers and family members of the brigade. The Schweinfurt-based visitors toured the installation and Netzaberg housing area Feb. 26, getting a firsthand glimpse of the services and support their new home will provide them.

Dont miss out ! Look for current and archive issues of the award-winning Bavarian News online at www.milcom.de today !

Community turns out for Black History Month celebration, learns cultural lessons

Story and photo by
MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr culminated a month's worth of cultural awareness activities at garrison schools with a Black History Month celebration Feb. 23.

The celebration included soul food sampling, performances by area dance teams, and musical selections and essay readings by local students.

The garrison's equal opportunity advisor, Sgt. 1st Class Jacqueline Galloway, said the event offered much more than simply entertainment.

"People need to understand what African American culture is about and where it came from," said Galloway.

Grafenwoehr and Vilseck students expressed their understanding of Black culture through writing and art during a Martin Luther King Jr. essay and poster contest. Winners presented their work to the audience and received certificates and monetary awards during the celebration.

The 14 winners, consisting mostly of Grafenwoehr Middle School students, inspired attendees.

"I was amazed at how much talent the students' poems and essays showed," said Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Brian Boyle. "It was



Teshaun Welch, 4, transforms into Spiderman at the Black History Month celebration Feb. 23 at Vilseck High School.

obvious that the students recognized the importance of the event. The contest is an example of how different ethnic groups are inspired by one another and come together to celebrate our nation's heritage and accomplishments."

Sixth-grader Cody Wilson received a \$25 savings bond for his poster depicting two hands of

different races joining in unity.

"My inspiration was Dr. Martin Luther King's dream that white and black folks could mix freely," he said.

Wilson's inspiration and the unity seen at the day-long celebration brought more than different cultures together. Command Sgt. Maj. Darieus ZaGara, of the Joint Multinational Training Command, views the event



Sgt. 1st Class Nijel Rawlins, HHC 18th CSSB, performs at the Black History Month Celebration Feb. 23 at Vilseck High School.

as an excellent way to educate community members.

"If (we) expose everyone to the unity of today's event, everybody can learn from each other," he said.

Education remained the goal of Grafenwoehr Middle School's Language Arts teacher Rita Joshua as she coordinated the African American Read-In for her students.

The school participated for the first time in the event, which hopes to educate students on African American literacy and celebrate it in conjunction with Black History Month activities.

Joshua stated such activities do more than teach African American culture to students.

"It gives them a life lesson of how to be a good person," she said.

Vilseck High School and the garrison's elementary schools also participated in Black History Month with trivia contests, musical performances and class projects, and by researching influential African Americans.

Grafenwoehr Elementary School Principal Crystal Bailey acknowledged the importance of teaching Black History Month lessons throughout the school year.

"In our school we're always working on acceptance which is much of what the Black History recognition is about," she said.

Other Black History Month activities included an art contest at the Vilseck Commissary and soul food lunches at the Vilseck and Grafenwoehr dining facilities. The lunches will continue throughout the year on Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Army unveils new field manual for operations

■ *FM gets first major rewrite since 9/11, to change operations for the next 10-15 years*

by Navy Seaman **WILLIAM SELBY**
American Forces Press Service

Stabilizing war-torn nations is as important as conducting offensive and defensive operations, according to a new Army operations manual.

The 15th edition of Army Field Manual 3-0, titled "Operations," will change the way the Army operates for the next 10 to 15 years, Army Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV, commander of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, Kan., said during a teleconference with online journalists and "bloggers" Feb. 26.

The new Army operations manual became available Feb. 28 and is the first major rewrite since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"The doctrine is recognition that stability ops are as important, perhaps if not more so, than

traditional combat operations," Caldwell said.

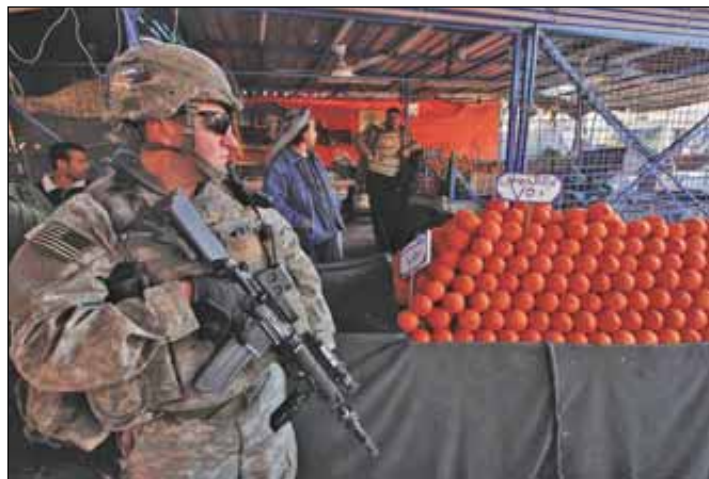
"We thought that if you could conduct operations at a high-end level — major wars, then you can do the lesser," he said. "What these past six years have shown us is that's not the case."

He added that "specific skill sets and organizational elements" are needed to operate in the environment in which the Army operates today.

The field manual also discusses a renewed focus on general leadership in the Army. "There's an emphasis on the art of command that stresses knowledge and understanding over a process and technology," Caldwell said.

In addition, Caldwell stressed the importance of training soldiers according to the tenets of the new manual.

"We are, in fact, making a major effort in



Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Mazuela, a platoon sergeant with Co. B, 2nd Bn., 325th Airborne Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT, 82nd Airborne Div., keeps a watchful eye out for security risks as shoppers visit one of the thriving new market areas in Baghdad's Sha'ab neighborhood Jan 15.

Photo by
Staff Sgt. Mike Pryor

shifting everything from cultural astuteness, awareness and inculcating that in the training very early on, helping our young men and women understand that their actions, in fact, have strategic implications," he said.

"We have to emphasize doctrine as the driver

for change," Caldwell said, noting he was echoing sentiments by Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. "We'll never cement change into our organization until we adapt our institution, and that change begins with doctrinal manual 3-0."

What will the Army's Family Covenant mean for you?

by **KEN WHITE**
IMCOM-E Public Affairs

Spurred by increased funding received under the Army Family Covenant, your installation Army Community Service will now be fully staffed for the first time in recent memory, and better prepared than ever to serve the needs of commanders, Soldiers and Families.

But ACS needs you to cast a vote ... with your feet.

"We challenge our community — from the single Soldier, to the young married spouse, to that company commander — to walk in the door and see for themselves everything ACS has to offer," said Lynn McCollum, ACS director of Installation Management Command-Europe.

"The Covenant has given us the tools to serve them, but it takes that Soldier or spouse taking the time to walk in the door to open their eyes to the world of possibilities available to them," she said.

When Gen. George Casey Jr., Army chief of staff, and his wife first set to work on a way to redouble the Army's commitment to Families that had become strained to the breaking point from the effects of protracted combat operations on the force, those possibilities were seemingly endless. But the voices of Soldiers spoke loud

and clear: "Don't give us more programs, just staff the programs you have in place and deliver them."

"When (Casey) first announced the Covenant, one of the points he made was that we are building on our existing programs, expanding our existing programs, rather than creating more," said McCollum. "We have great things already in place [under the Covenant], we just needed to make sure they are funded and provided to standard. We haven't always done that."

Historically, ACS had delivered valuable programs — Army Volunteer Corps; Army Family Action Plan; Army Family Team Building; Exceptional Family Member Program; Family Advocacy; and Relocation Readiness, Deployment Readiness, Financial Readiness, and Employment Readiness — but there was one impediment to their ability to meet the needs of Army Families.

"One of their (garrison ACS) biggest challenges has always been staffing," said McCollum. "When you talk about the 'rightsizing' of ACS, we've always had a requirement for additional positions, but we also haven't had the funding to meet that requirement," she related.

Army Family Covenant funding spurred immediate corrective action

across Europe.

"We knew what we needed even before the Covenant, so there was no hesitation when it was announced," she said. "With the full support of Mr. (Russell) Hall (director of IMCOM-Europe), we moved to hire 74 more people in the ACS centers necessary to bring ACS staffing to 100 percent across Europe, even though the actual money for the positions came later," she emphasized.

What does that mean to the Soldier and his or her family? When Army Families heard that \$1.5 billion was being put toward the Covenant, what did that really mean to the average Soldier or spouse?

"For ACS, customers typically walk in, and expect to be seen," she related "And that is what ACS is all about — it's helping people. You're either in some kind of counseling sessions or some kind of classroom setting, and you can provide more and better customer service if you have adequate staff. They do not want to have to wait or have a delay for an appointment time," she said.

"The bottom line is that they should receive better service," McCollum stressed, referring to increased responsiveness that continues to come from being able to hire and pay more ACS staff due to the Covenant. "They have someone

to go in and talk to, whether it is for an exceptional family member, or whether it be additional support for the deployment program."

"For commanders, having more people optimizes our accessibility and our responsiveness to their needs — from the Family Readiness Group and other pre-deployment/redeployment training, to rear detachment and financial readiness training," she added.

Bottom line for the customer is that ACS will now have staff more readily available to work with folks when they come in the door.

McCollum stressed that Soldiers and Families can expect to see continued growth in responsiveness to their needs as ACS centers receive the full benefit of the additional hiring authorized under the Covenant; a process that can be time-consuming given it may take months to recruit a qualified candidate to Europe from stateside.

When the Covenant was announced, ACS directorates at each garrison reviewed their shortfalls — which positions they did not have filled — and aligned their needs to build staffing in areas where the need was most critical to service a certain population in need at a particular garrison. McCollum said those garrisons that serve communities with

higher a number of deployments — such as Vicenza, Grafenwoehr, Schweinfurt, Baumholder, Wiesbaden — were all high priorities, and all received additional staff, in addition to most garrisons across Europe.

"The ACS directors at all the garrisons are working it hard," she said. If you talk to any of them [ACS directors] they are very appreciative in getting additional staff, and they will send me their requirements in doing a better job with customer and working with Soldiers and families. It takes people to that."

The additional staffing also has another often overlooked benefit.

"They will be working less overtime," she admitted. "For a lot of the current [ACS] staff, a lot of them are family members as well; they have spouses who are deployed; and they have children — so if they can work a regular work day, that is a positive thing for them."

With an improved responsiveness the Covenant has made possible — and enhanced delivery of services that additional funding has allowed at European garrison ACS centers — Soldiers and their Families are encouraged to take up the challenge to visit their local ACS, where they stand to benefit directly from ACS's commitment to making a world of difference.

Camp ground offers escape for all seasons

Story and photos by JOHN REESE
Bavarian News

A stroll through the winter wonderland of the Armed Forces Recreation Center campground on Artillery Kaserne reveals a bucolic setting away from the crowds and traffic of daily life.

Patches of snow and ice shaded from the sun resist melting under thick stands of pine trees blanketing most of the grounds. Joggers pick their way on the cleared hardtop that winds its way through the campsites, and children bundled up against the slight chill clamber about the playground.

Late rising campers with shaving kits and towels amble to the old wooden bathhouse, while the smell of coffee and bacon wafts from one of the cozy little cabins.

“Just another perfect day at the Vacation Village,” said campground ranger Kristine Ratza, making her rounds on a sunny March morning.

“It’s optimal for me. I grew up on a Michigan cattle farm. I get the happy, laid back side of hotel guests.”

The Vacation Village comes under the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort located nearby. Guests check in at the hotel and then mosey over to their campsite or cabin.

“There are 50 tent sites, but not a lot of tent campers in the winter,” said

Ratza.

“We have graveled camping sites with electricity, and two different sizes of cabins. The cabins sleep six. There are also a few sites with parked caravans where longer visiting guests, like retirees, like to stay for up to 30 days,” said Ratza.

Campfires aren’t allowed in the densely wooded areas, but all of the sites come with a simple iron charcoal grill for barbecuing. Pets are allowed in gravel and tent sites as long as they’re leashed.

During the winter, the tent campsites are usually bypassed in favor of the many heated cabins. There are 11 small and eight large cabins, and all of them come with bedding, refrigerators, microwaves, satellite television, DVD players, and all are able to sleep up to six. The larger cabins add the luxury of a bathroom and kitchenette. The bathhouse with restrooms is a minute away from the smaller cabins.

A few seconds inside of a smaller rustic cabin and guests know the entire layout. A small common area with a table, chairs, and a bench seat are in front. A ladder leads to a double loft bed. Below the loft is a room with another double bed and a set of single bunk beds.

“The 11 rustic cabins are small and comfortable with enough space for a



Undaunted by lingering snow left in the shady pines, a mother and child enjoy the playground and the mild winter weather.

young family, a retired couple, or a small group of Soldiers to relax and enjoy,” said Ratza. “The cabins were actually full for Valentine’s Day. It was fairly decent weather for guests to have a glass of wine and watch the sunset. Some people were barbecuing because the weather was mild.”

Once guests are settled they have to decide on what to do. Many come in the winter for the great skiing on the Zugspitze, where conditions at the higher elevations were still good for skiing despite the lack of snow this winter.

“The best advantage in Garmisch is the beautiful mountains for hiking, and being a guest at the Edelweiss you can go canoeing Inn River, white water rafting, use the hotel’s indoor pool, hot tub, or get a hot stone massage,” suggested Ratza. “You can also try paragliding, or take an English-language guided tour with experienced

local guides.”

The garrison library with books and DVDs is a stone’s throw from the cabins in the Pete Burke Community Center, which also features the ski rental shop with full winter sporting equipment and bicycles.

For food choices, there is always the option of using the grill and cooking your own food. A trip to the Garmisch commissary and Post Exchange for supplies is a five-minute stroll through a shortcut near the bathhouse. A stop at the sandwich shop or shoppette can solve an immediate hunger. The Espresso Coffee Bistro near the commissary is a good place to check e-mail while enjoying great coffee or tea and hot, fresh beignets. Almost in the campground is Dolomiti’s, a family-style Italian restaurant.

“Guests like to eat at the Pullman Place at the hotel,” said Ratza, referring

to the restaurant at the Edelweiss.

The Edelweiss’ Market Station offers buffet meals at very reasonable prices, and Zuggy’s Base Camp, a “mountain-style alehouse,” recently brought back an hour of happiness every afternoon .

For the adventurous, Ratza has handouts of local watering holes and eateries close by in Garmisch at the campground office.

Vacation Village is a quick and easy getaway for families, and will become more popular as winter turns to spring. Ratza advises those who like it less crowded to take advantage of the campgrounds and cabins now.

“You get a site or cabin way off in the back in the slow season and you get a lot of privacy,” said Ratza. “You have the feeling it’s all to yourself.”

For more information, go to <http://www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com/vacationvillage.html>.



Not exactly roughing it, the larger deluxe cabin is roomy, with the added features of a bathroom and kitchenette. All camp sites come with a barbecue grill.

Soul food, gospel music highlight Black History event

by JOHN REESE
Bavarian News

Soul food samples shared the spotlight with guest speaker Sgt. Maj. Grant Jones at the Pete Burke Community Center Feb. 26 as Garmisch celebrated Black History Month.

“As the expression goes, we’ve come a long way, baby, but we aren’t there yet,” said Jones, speaking extemporaneously with occasional glances at his prepared remarks.

He detailed how he, a young man from

Chicago who enlisted in 1978, was one of only five African-American military policemen in his first unit. The Army gave him the opportunity to rise to his current position as the operations sergeant major at the USAREUR Office of the Provost Marshal, Jones said.

Jones, who talked about personal experiences in his Army career and those of his older brother who served in Vietnam, also told about the Buffalo Soldiers and the Tuskegee Airmen, and the difficult challenges they faced.

Garrison manager Karin H. Santos introduced the program with a background on this year’s theme, historian Carter G. Woodson and the creation of what has now become African-American History Month. In true Garmisch style, volunteer members of the community made up the program. About 75 Soldiers and garrison civilians attended the event, which included students from the Garmisch American School reading Great Moments in Black History taken from morning reports that the school was broadcasting over their public address system every morning in February.

After an invocation and blessing of the food by Chaplain Lyle Shackelford, the participants dug into some classic Southern-style soul food. The dishes were prepared by Christine Gunnewig, and while she was concerned that her black-eyed peas might not have been as good as “Mom’s”, there were no leftovers.

The event continued with the reading of the presidential proclamation by James Kittrell and an emotionally stirring a-cappella rendition of a traditional gospel standard by Carl Clemmons, both employees of the garrison who volunteered to participate.

To conclude the event after speaking, Jones cut a red velvet cake made especially for the celebration by master baker Dave DiRoma of the Marshall Center.



Photo by Andrea Winter

Carl Clemmons sings the gospel standard “How Great Thou Art” to a rapt audience at the USAG-Garmisch Black History Month Celebration Feb. 26.

PTA serves Seussian breakfast for Read Across America Day

Story and photo by JOHN REESE
Bavarian News

To celebrate Read Across America Day March 3 and the 104th anniversary of Theodor Seuss Geisel’s birthday, students at the Garmisch American School came to class in pajamas and slippers to enjoy green eggs and ham while listening to selected readings.

“We thought that with the kids coming in the morning for a read-a-thon, it would be comfortable for them to come in pajamas and have a blanket and a sleeping bag so that they could have a relaxed reading time this morning,” said Ruth Handley, 5th grade and ESL teacher.

“We organized this because the school realizes that reading is important and that it’s a big part of our curriculum, and we wanted to recognize Dr. Seuss and do something for his birthday and also Read Across America.”

Read Across America has been an annual event since 1997. It was created by the National Education Association and features adults reading to children.

The date is set to coincide with Dr. Seuss’s birthday because he inspired millions of children to read. In some cities across America, guest readers like professional athletes, entertainers, or politicians are invited to read aloud.

In Garmisch, one guest reader, a U.S. Air Force officer in a flight suit, was helping Handley dish up portions of the legendary Seussian green eggs and ham breakfast in one half of the school’s multipurpose room while adults read to children clad in PJs in the other half.

“I’m on the PTA board,” said Lt. Col. Peter Gortner, a course instructor at the NATO School in Oberammergau and treasurer of the Garmisch Parent-Teacher Association. “I got off work and this is much better than sitting behind my desk up at the NATO school!”

The PTA supplied the breakfast, and volunteers like Gortner were on hand to prepare

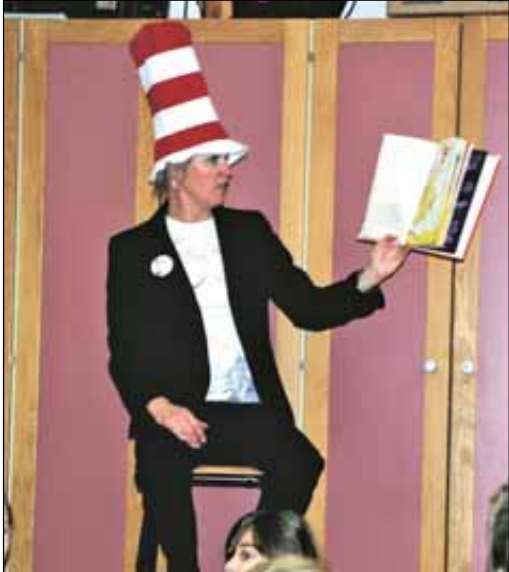
and serve breakfast, and to read to the children.

“My son Matthew is in kindergarten, and his favorite character ever is Thomas the Tank Engine, so I’m going to read ‘Thomas goes Fishing’ to the kindergarten class,” said Gortner.

“I did try the green eggs and ham,” said Gortner. “They’re delicious!”

Theodor Seuss Geisel, or Dr. Seuss, was born March 2, 1904, and became one of the most popular children’s authors in America.

He wrote his first children’s book on a ship bound for Europe in 1936, only to have it rejected by 43 publishers before it was finally printed by a friend. During World War II, Dr. Seuss was Capt. Geisel, working in Hollywood for Frank Capra’s Signal Corps unit, earning a Legion of Merit and a couple of Oscars for his work.



Erica Hansen reads Dr. Seuss’ “If I Ran the Zoo” to her students as part of Read Across America Day.

Students spend day shadowing Soldiers

Story and photo by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

More than 400 elementary school and 100 middle and high school students took part in Job Shadow Day March 4 when all over post children went to work with their parents to see what mommy and daddy do while they are at school.

The Joint Multinational Readiness Center and 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment both organized various hands-on activities that allowed kids to see what their parents do as Soldiers and to have an opportunity as kids to play with the “grown up toys.”

JMRC had four different stations set up in Ubungsdorf, a city in the Hohenfels training area normally off limits to civilians.

Children were taken on Humvee rides, attended a civilians on the battlefield briefing, an improvised explosive device demonstration, and were familiarized with M4s and M16s.

At 1-4 Infantry, Soldiers helped kids into night vision goggles and in groups of two they navigated a maze enclosed in an entirely pitch black room.

The parents seemed to be having the most fun at the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 demonstration where dads crouched beside their children and helped them aim at targets on a wall-sized screen that resembled a huge video game.

“It’s a good idea. It gets them interested to see what daddy does,” said Sgt. 1st Class Larry Comfort, whose son’s favorite part of the day was riding in the Humvee.

Comfort thought the day was such a good idea it should be expanded.

“I think next we should have a day where we swap places with our wives,” he said.

Tanja Vass, a student at the elementary school, said she had the most fun at the EST 2000 demonstration, mostly because she said her older brothers who didn’t attend would be jealous.

Sgt. 1st Class Encarnacion Rodriguez, who ran the EST demonstration, said a lot of planning goes into making Job Shadow Day happen. But he said it was worth it.

“The kids enjoy it I think. You can see the smiles on their faces, and you know they like it,” Rodriguez said.



Capt. Dave Devin (left) and Sgt. Carroll Murphy help Devin’s sons Nathan and Michael put on their night vision goggles at Company C, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment.

Crerend, Stolz named top bowlers in championship for second year

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

At the end of day one of competition in this year’s Hohenfels Post Bowling Championship, the leader board looked nothing like last year. By the end of the competition, however, all but one of the four male and female winner and runner-up spots were occupied by the same bowler as last year.

Thirty people participated in Friday’s qualifying round and the top eight men and eight women returned for the second round on Saturday when they bowled head-to-head games organized in eight person brackets.

After Friday’s qualifying round, last year’s male winner, Michael Crerend, was in eighth place, coincidentally the same place he was after day one of last year’s competition, the lowest placing eligible to return for Saturday’s head

to head match ups.

“I thought, oh my God, I gotta bowl Bill!” he said, referring to Bill Craven, who was in first place going into Saturday’s match ups. “Bill’s a really good bowler, so knowing I had to go against him the next day was nerve-racking.”

Two consecutive wins later, Crerend had once again claimed the title with a score of 400.

Jeremy Crook, who wasn’t in the competition last year, was in fourth place after round one but managed

to take the runner-up spot with a score of 346. Bill Craven lost in the first round on Saturday.

The women’s standings had a less dramatic change between rounds. Doreen Vandal, who finished second in the championship with a score of 296, was in the lead after Friday’s games, but was eventually beaten by Renee Stolz’s 349, though Stolz had trailed her after round one. Both

women finished in the same places last year.

“It’s nerve-racking how they do it,” said Vandal. “Everyone’s standing around watching you, and you each bowl one at a time. But it wasn’t as bad as last year, at least this year I knew what to expect.”

Crerend said luck had a lot to do with his victory. He just returned in October from a six month deployment with the 527th Military Police Company, so he said he hasn’t bowled very much in the past year and therefore “a lot of it was luck. A lot was calming down your nerves, not letting the pressure get to you.”

James Williams, manager of Lane 17 Bowling Center, and former garrison commander Lt. Col. James Matheson had the idea to begin the tournament last year.

“We don’t have a lot of tournaments here, so bowlers really like this championship,” Williams said. “It gives them the chance to do something different than league bowling. It gives the bowlers, especially the men, the chance to prove who’s best.”

Williams said the tournament will continue as an annual Hohenfels tradition at least as long as he is the manager.

“Everyone’s standing around watching you, and you each bowl one at a time.”

Doreen Vandal
Women’s second place winner

Legal assistance now available in Hohenfels

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Members of the Hohenfels community will no longer have to travel to Grafenwoehr or Vilseck for the services of a legal assistance attorney.

The Hohenfels Legal Center recently welcomed Clay Donnigan to their staff to fill the position that has been vacant for the past six months.

As legal assistance attorney, Donnigan will be able to assist community members with, among other things, issues related to wills, living wills, medical powers of attorney, other powers of attorney, identity theft, and domestic issues such as custody agreements and divorce.

He is also able to assist on most military matters, some matters of contract law, and other miscellaneous legal questions. Attorney-client privilege applies to all interactions clients have with Donnigan, including all military related matters, with the exception of criminal proceedings such as courts martial and article 15s.

“We are thrilled to welcome Mr. Donnigan to the Hohenfels Legal Center,” said Capt. Elizabeth Talarico. “His vast experience and knowledge

have already significantly benefited the Soldiers of JMRC, and we expect even more of an impact once the Hohenfels community spreads the word of this dedicated legal assistance attorney.”

Before reporting to Hohenfels, Donnigan served as a civilian legal assistance and claims attorney in the 1st Armored Division from April 1996 to January 2008, primarily in rear-detachment support of the 1st Brigade Combat Team and the Friedberg and Giessen military communities.

Donnigan supported the legal assistance needs of Soldiers and their families during each deployment, beginning with the division’s deployment to Bosnia, and ending with the deployment of the division to Iraq in the summer of 2007. Before joining the 1st Armored Division, Donnigan served seven years of active duty as a Judge Advocate General officer, with various assignments in the Military District of Washington, and in Darmstadt with the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 32nd Air Defense Artillery.

Community members interested in making an appointment with Donnigan should call the Legal Center at DSN 466-2401.

Camp Adventure interns help CDC, SAS offer best care possible

Story and photo by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Allison Billhardt, Brittney Hawkins, and Susan Daniel are working 45-hour weeks for almost no pay to help the kids of Hohenfels.

These three girls are all interns with Camp Adventure, a not-for-profit educational program based out of the University of Northern Iowa designed to provide college-age students with a valuable service learning experience while helping the children and communities they serve.

The girls rotate between the Child Development Center and School Age Services, filling in where needed.

“It has been very helpful having the interns,” said Deltra Hearne, assistant director of CDC. “They help us cover things like block leave and rest and relaxation leave so the staff can spend time with their spouses.”

Two staff members are married to Soldiers in Company A, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment who returned from a seven-month deployment Feb. 25, and having people to cover so they can spend time with their spouses relieves a lot of stress, said Hearne. The interns also cover most of the CDC and SAS night shifts such as Family Readiness Group meetings and parent’s nights out.



Camp Adventure interns Allison Billhardt (left) and Brittney Hawkins play with Jayson Ruehs at the Child Development Center.

Allison Billhardt, a recent graduate of the University of Iowa with an education degree, said Camp Adventure allows her to hone skills she learned in the classroom.

“It helps you learn better how to react to things and gives you ideas for your own classroom,” she said, adding it also affords the

opportunity to travel and do something new before settling down into her first job.

Brittney Hawkins is a junior at Chico State University in California and is earning twelve college credits for her time here which began Jan. 22 and will end May 17.

“I’m here to figure out what I want to do,”

said Hawkins, a liberal studies major. “It’s such a great opportunity. Someone said it’s like being in America on the weekdays and Europe on the weekends.”

The girls, who most enjoy mornings when the children rush in and are excited to see them, admit that caring for children of military families offers unique challenges, such as tending to the needs of children of deployed parents.

“It puts a lot more stress on the parents. It’s a lot raising kids by yourself while your husband is deployed. It’s something we have to remember,” said Billhardt.

“I give a lot of credit to the parents who do it,” said Hawkins.

Barbara Tennant, director of CDC, said it was the Army that first approached Camp Adventure about accepting interns to help fill some of its childcare needs. Before coming to Hohenfels, the interns are trained by Camp Adventure, and Tennant says that they have been very happy so far with the training the interns receive.

“Not all of them are education majors either. One we had was an archeology major, but she got in the classroom and she was really good,” said Hearne.

Hohenfels has applied for interns for the next session but has not yet heard back from Camp Adventure.

Place your free classified ad in the Bavarian News. Visit www.milcom.de to submit your ad!

Welcome Home!

Infantry company returns from Afghanistan

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Every member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment who deployed to Afghanistan on July 24 is now back from deployment.

"It is so nice to be back and let your hair down," said Sgt. Dustin Sutton.

Sgt. Steven Pruitt said it doesn't take long after being back to adjust.

"You get used to not looking for IEDs, for not looking over your shoulder for the enemy. A lot of emotion runs through you, you are so glad you are home," he said.

Company Commander Capt. Pongpat Piluek said it is such a relief to return from deployment without losing a single Soldier that it is hard to vocalize.

"It's like extra credit. When we go to war, especially with the kinetic nature of our mission, sometimes the goal of making sure the Soldiers are not in harm's way and trying to make a positive impact are at odds. We weren't reckless, but it wasn't risk aversion either. Fate had a lot to do with it. We also learned a lot from our sister companies and were able to plan accordingly," Piluek said.

One Soldier, Spc. Daniel Urrutia, remains at Walter Reed Army Hospital receiving treatment for an injury to his leg sustained when his Humvee was hit by an improvised explosive device.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Ritenour was also seriously injured when a bullet struck him in the head during a fire fight in September. Though he



Photo by Troy Darr

A crowd of family members and fellow Soldiers welcome home Company A, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, from their deployment to Afghanistan.

suffered temporary partial paralysis and continues physical therapy, Ritenour was able to attend the ceremony welcoming his fellow Soldiers home on Feb. 25.

Ritenour recently learned he will

be receiving the Silver Star for his actions; Ritenour continued to fight and aid other wounded Soldiers despite his own injury.

The battalion first arrived in Kandahar then moved to and occupied three forward operating bases in Zabul, a province in south eastern Afghanistan that borders Pakistan.

Pruitt, who spent part of his first deployment at an airbase in Iraq, said he definitely saw more action this time around. When they first arrived insurgents were hitting the FOB almost every other day, he said, like they knew there was a new unit in charge and were testing their resolve.

Staff Sgt. Michael Bellinger, who served with Company A when they deployed to a different part of the country in 2004, said they were doing missions pretty steadily until they left, though the pace began to slow slightly as winter approached making it harder for insurgents and troops alike to navigate the snow-covered terrain.

He also agreed that Afghanistan was rougher this time around, which he thinks is at least partially because Zabul does not yet have a large number of their own law enforcement

personnel.

Piluek said the increase in action may be due to a more aggressive pursuit of the enemy.

"We were going off the main road, Highway 1, and the free economic zone and pressing into the fringes where we could hit their power bases," he said.

Though Piluek is proud of how well his unit performed combating the insurgents, he is also quick to point out that was not their only task.

"Before you can change the

opinions and minds in any counterinsurgency war, you have to win the spirit of the local people, and I think we did to some point," he said.

During their seven months, the company worked on a number of infrastructure projects, including building schools for the Afghan children near FOBs Baylough and Mizan.

"It was a good experience," said Spc. Michael Green, commenting on the deployment as a whole. "Even though I'm just a gunner I felt like what I did helped."

"This is a generational conflict—it's a marathon, not a sprint. It will probably be years down the road before we see it get better significantly," said Piluek.

Now that the Soldiers of Company A have spent seven months in that marathon, they are tasked with reintegrating themselves with the community and their families, a process which started days before the company even left the country.

Soldiers spent time in Kandahar before coming to Germany which, according to Piluek, allowed them to get used to being out of the FOBs and around people not in their immediate organization.

Upon return to Hohenfels the Soldiers entered a seven-day period of reintegration during which they are introduced to the many resources available to them to aid their transition. The Chaplain, Army Community Service, Legal Office, and various other offices and organizations present the Soldiers with options and programs designed to ensure their healthy transition out of combat. Following the seven days of reintegration, Soldiers have two weeks of block leave, after which they will once again support their battalion's training mission.



Courtesy photos

Sgt. Christopher Weber monitors a defensive position from his Humvee.



Spc. Shawn Hargus (left) and Staff Sgt. Orlando Soto take a break to speak with some local children.



Spc. Adrian Leyva patrols a village during a humanitarian aid mission.



Pfc. Jerry Cleveland (left) and Spc. Christopher Spositi prepare for a mission.

What’s Happening

Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

General Officer Assignments

The chief of staff, Air Force announced the assignment of the following general officer:

Brig. Gen. Frank J. Kisner, director, center for force structure, requirements, resources, and strategic assessments, Headquarters U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., to commander, special operations command, Europe and director, special operations, U.S. European Command, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany.

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced that the President has made the following nomination:

Navy Rear Adm. William H. McRaven has been nominated for appointment to the grade of vice admiral and assignment as commander, Joint Special Operations Command/commander, Joint Special Operations Command Forward, U.S. Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C.

McRaven is currently serving as commander, Special Operations Command Europe/director, special operation, U.S. European Command, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany.

Estates claims

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Spc. Orlando A. Perez of Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment should contact the following summary court martial officer: 1st Lt. Pauline Harris at DSN 476-5405/5429.

Military Life Consultants

The Department of Defense has contracted to provide professional staff for non-medical counseling to service members and their families. Issues that can be addressed include: marriage and relationship issues, stress and anxiety, depression, grief and loss, child behavior issues, and daily life issues.

The services are free and no records are kept. Consultants are also available for presentations on above listed topics for FRG meetings. Consultants are readily available and scheduling an appointment in either Grafenwoehr or Vilseck is easy. Call CIV 0152-029-34290 or CIV 0173-184-7209 for more information or to make an appointment.

Special voting information

Special voting information for Illinois, California, Louisiana, and Indiana voters:

California will hold a special primary election April 8 followed by a special election on June 3 for a Representative in Congress from the 12th District.

To determine if your legal residence is in one of the above districts, you can click on “Communicating with Your Elected Officials”, then “Who is my Representative?” at the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site: www.fvap.gov/comm/communicating.html.

Parent-to-parent workshops

Tomorrow – Your Military Sponsored European Education: A SKIES Workshop While You Wait – open to the public! 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. in the Vilseck Dance Studio, Bldg. 221. Being stationed overseas provides your family limitless opportunities for personal growth and continuing education. Even going to a Volksfest can support academic success. This workshop will provide ideas, resources, and activities to help your child’s education come alive.

For more information about these and other available workshops from the

MCEC Parent to Parent Team, contact us at CIV 0175-648-2777 or GrafVilseckParent2Parent@yahoo.com.

VCSC, GCSC scholarships

Attention high school seniors! Scholarships are available through VCSC and GCSC for 2008. Don’t wait, submit your application today!

Application deadline is March 21. Notification of award will be made in May. Applications are available on the VCSC Web site www.vcscinfo.com, the GCSC Web site www.gcsconline.com, VHS, and at both the Vilseck and the Grafenwoehr education centers and thrift stores. Questions can be addressed to Michelene Hearth-Holmes at m.hearthholmes@us.army.mil.

Now there is also a scholarship available for spouses through VCSC. Don’t delay, pick up your application and submit it in time for the March 21 deadline.

Graf Clinic closure

The Grafenwoehr Health Clinic will be closed April 4-7. For all health emergencies, please proceed to Klinikum Weiden or Krankenhaus Eschenbach. Maps to both locations are available outside the main entrance of the health clinic.

Next FAST class in April

The Vilseck Education Center, Bldg. 223, will be hosting its next FAST Class April 1-11, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Functional Academic Skills Training provides Soldiers with instruction in reading, mathematics, and language skills. The objective is to improve job performance, prepare Soldiers for more advanced academic courses, increase military career options, and enhance educational skills.

The FAST class is a 60-hour academic course and is limited to twenty students per class. Registration now open. For more information contact the Vilseck Education Center at DSN 476-2753.

CTC offers spring classes

Central Texas College Vilseck/ Grafenwoehr is offering the following four vocational-technical courses in the upcoming Term 4: AUMT 1405 – Introduction to Automotive Technology (4 credit hours); AUMT 1410 – Automotive Brake Systems (4 credit hours); CDEC 2341 – The School Age Child (3 credit hours); and CJSA 2331 – Child Abuse, Prevention & Investigation (3 credit hours).

All four classes are classroom-based and lead to an Associate in Applied Science degree. Classes will be held in both Vilseck and Grafenwoehr. Term 4 registration is through March 28. The term dates are March 31 – May 24.

Contact CTC field representative Chuck Sligh at the Vilseck or Grafenwoehr Education Center for more information on these and other educational opportunities at DSN 476-2362 / CIV 09662-83-2362 (Vilseck on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday) or DSN 475-6702 / CIV 09641-83-6702 (Graf on Monday and Wednesday), or by e-mail at vilseck@europe.ctcd.edu.

UMUC spring registration

University of Maryland University College Europe announces Term 4 registration. Between Monday and March 28, all U.S. military I.D. card holders are encouraged to enroll in courses leading to professional certificates, associate’s, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees. All students may register at one of the 70 field sites located throughout Europe and the Middle East for on-site courses beginning March 31.

UMUC accepts a variety of financial aid sources specific to military members and their families to include: military tuition assistance, spouse tuition assistance, VA educational benefits, grants or federal student loans. UMUC Europe field

representatives are on-site and available to assist students with completing the new 2008-2009 Free Application for Federal Student Aid and other financial aid forms.

Need a training location?

Why not contact your local Joint Multinational Training Command, Digital Training Facility! All facilities have several air-conditioned classrooms with 16 multimedia computer workstations with Internet access and video teletraining capability.

These classrooms are also ideal for individuals seeking a quiet place to work on-line on self-development courses.

For more information, contact your local DTF manager at the following numbers:

Grafenwoehr DTF - DSN 474-2381 or CIV 09641-454-2381, Location: Bldg 3144 (Camp Normandy).

Vilseck DTF - DSN 476-3758, CIV 09662-83-3758, Location: Bldg 355.

Lent and Easter Schedule

Stations of the Cross:
Friday’s in Lent 6 p.m. Vilseck Chapel

HOLY WEEK – ALL SERVICES
Palm Sunday, March 16
9 a.m. Catholic Mass, Graf Chapel
11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass, Vilseck Chapel
9 a.m. Protestant Service, Vilseck Chapel
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service, Graf Chapel
10:30 a.m. Episcopal/Lutheran, Small Vilseck Chapel

Holy Thursday, March 20
6 p.m. Catholic Mass, Graf Chapel
6 p.m. Episcopal/Lutheran, Small Vilseck Chapel
Good Friday, March 21
6 p.m. Protestant Service, Graf Chapel
6 p.m. Catholic Mass, Vilseck Chapel
Noon Episcopal/Lutheran Small Vilseck Chapel

Easter Vigil Service, March 22
7 p.m. Catholic Mass, Graf Chapel

Easter Sunday, March 23
7 a.m. Sunrise Service at Big Mike’s (Vilseck)
9 a.m. Catholic Mass, Graf Chapel
11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass, Vilseck Chapel
9 a.m. Protestant Service, Vilseck Chapel
10:30 a.m. Protestant Service, Graf Chapel
10:30 a.m. Episcopal/Lutheran, Small Vilseck Chapel

Hohenfels Briefs

Flea Market/ Easter Markets

Through March 24: Large Easter market at the Hauptmarkt in Nuremberg’s historic pedestrian zone. This annual Häferlesmarkt has become a long-standing tradition in early Spring, as it is the very first vendor market of the year. In around 80 booths and stalls, you will find various household wares, ceramics, clothes, candies, books, knickknacks, and other daily necessities.

Sunday: Easter market at the Volksfestplatz in Neumarkt, with open stores on Sunday 1-5 p.m. in the town center. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Model train exchange and fair at the Sporthalle ESV 1927, Dechbettener Bruecke 2, 93051 Regensburg. Sale and barter of model trains and equipment for all track gauges.

Consultation and advice available from the organizers, Eisenbahnfreunde RSWE, and you can even test all models before buying them. Admission is 2 Euro for adults and 1 Euro for children. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Artisans market at the Kleine Jurahalle in Neumarkt.

Admission is 1 Euro, children under 12 are free. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Medieval Easter market at the museum Schloss Theuern near Kümmersbruck. Watch craftsmen produce their wares in old-fashioned style, listen to medieval music, and enjoy the day. Admission is 2 Euro and 1Euro for children.

There will also be special entertainment for kids, including a theater play (in German) which costs additional fees. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Easter fair at the Europahalle in Berching. Admission is 1 Euro. For more information call CIV 08462-205-35.

Get ready for the Hohenfels Wii Tournament

Today and Friday: If you are planning on participating in the Wii

Tournament to be held Saturday-March 20 and would like some practice, the Wii system will be set up at Brew in the Box from 1-3 p.m.

Chick adventure in Poland

Friday and Saturday: Well, we’re taking it to the next level and having a Chick Adventure. Mark your calendars for our Spring Retreat Friday and Saturday. We’ll be trekking to Poland where we’ll stay at the Elim Christian Center (www.elimcenter.pl) which just happens to be located near Boleslawiec, the home of Polish pottery. We’ll be bringing along any new or gently used donations of clothes, toys and toiletries so that we can bless our friends at the Elim Christian Center. Make any necessary childcare arrangements, invite your friends, and come shop with us. Nursing babies may attend with their mommies. Costs will be minimal. For more information contact Gwen Eungard at bradandgwen@cs.com.

March CPR-First Aid class

Saturday: Red Cross has a CPR-First Aid class scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call DSN 466-1760 for more information.

Wild West Night wants you

Saturday: The Old West will come alive and bring games of chance, a silent auction, and the country store. We’ll have Western Grub, a chili cook-off, and watch out that you don’t get thrown into the old Jail. This year’s Wild West Night will take place at the Zone 6 p.m. to midnight. Tickets will be sold around post and at the HCSC Thrift Store for \$10 or \$15 at the door. The event is for ages 18 and older. All proceeds go back into the community through HCSC welfare grants. For more information contact Katie Coulter at kathleen.coulter@us.army.mil.

Wearing O’ the Green Day

Monday: Wearing O’the Green Day at the Hohenfels Library-Celtic music and stories starting at 10 a.m. wear something green.

Easter egg Bingo at the CAC

March 21: Come join the fun starting at 6:30 p.m. Bingo packets are \$25 sold prior to 3 p.m. and \$30 sold at the door. Changes to current Bingo: all U-Pick’em Bingos now pay 60 percent of sales prize, all U-Pick’em Bingos will pay \$150 if the Bingo is on nine numbers or less, and Jackpot Game now pays \$300 if Bingo is on 48 numbers or less. My Deal prizes will always include extra Junior Jackpot and Jackpot cards.

Hohenfels Bike Rodeo

March 29: Cub Scout Pack 303 will host a bike rodeo from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Festplatz. Bring your bikes, trikes, skateboards and roller blades out for a fun day of driver’s training and show off your skills on the obstacle courses. The scouts will also have some tricky riders showing off their stuff. All participants must wear a helmet. This is a day of fun for the whole family. You are never too young or too old to ride safe. For more information contact Andrea Neill at cubscoutsinhohenfels@yahoo.com.

National Women’s History Month Specials at Lane 17

Throughout March: For the entire month of March, Lane 17 will celebrate National Women’s History Month with specials and discounts for “Ladies Only” including the following: women of all ages will pay no more than \$1 per game all month, women’s Extreme Bowling prices for the entire month of March will be \$1.50 per game, women’s shoe rental is free for the entire month of March, special Lucky Draw for women only March 28 (women ages 16 and up can win a coach bag), and all young women ages 12 and below bowl free of charge (three games max) on Easter Sunday.

Kids Club

Kids Club meets Thursday’s weekly at the School Age Services Gym, Bldg. 112, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. except school-out days. The program is open to parents with infants to kindergarten age children. All children must be CYS/Kids Club registered. Parents and children participate in gross motor play. Activities include climbing, crawling, manipulating obstacles, and other fun activities.

Crafty Mondays

Every Monday in March, come to the Hohenfels Library at 3 p.m. and make a new craft.

Preschool Story Hour

Preschool Story Hour is back at the Hohenfels Library, every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Lose to Win

Tuesday: How much can your team Lose to Win in the upcoming 10 week weight-loss challenge? Get a team together and find out during the Hohenfels Lose to Win team weight-loss competition. Program runs from Tuesday to May 27. The Initial weigh-in and registration will be held Tuesday, location to be announced (alternate initial weigh-in date is March 25).

A program briefing will be held on March 20 at noon, location to be announced. Teams must have three members consisting of men and/or women 18 years and older. Active-duty Soldiers, DOD civilian employees, family members, civilian employees, and U.S. contractors eligible to use U.S. facilities are eligible to participate in this program. There will be first, second, and third place prizes for teams and first place individual prizes for the top male and female (to be eligible to win a prize, teams must make both the initial and final weigh-in dates).

For more information, contact Sports and Fitness at DSN 466-2868/2493.

The Big Read

March 31: March is Big Read month at the Hohenfels Library. The Big Read is a community- wide book reading of The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullars. Hohenfels is one of only seven libraries in Europe chosen to participate in this year’s Big Read event. Sign up for The Big Read and receive a free book and reader’s guide.

There will also be opportunities to discuss the book, both in person and online. See the staff at the library for more information and to sign up. The Book Club/Big Read meeting will be held March 31 at 5 p.m.

2008 Hohenfels Lent and Easter Service Schedule

Lent
Monday, 5 p.m., Stations of the Cross, MPC
March 20, 5 p.m., Holy Thursday Mass, MPC

Good Friday
March 21, 5 p.m. Catholic Good Friday Service, MPC
March 21, 6 p.m. Protestant Good Friday Communion Service, NC

Easter
March 22, 5 p.m. Holy Saturday Mass, MPC
March 23, Easter Services at regular times
March 23, 6 p.m. Combined Community Easter Program

Garmisch Briefs

2008 Garmisch Lent and Easter Service Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 16
9 a.m. Catholic Mass
10:45 a.m. Protestant Service

Holy Thursday Mass, March 20
9 a.m. Garmisch Chapel

Catholic Good Friday Service, March 21
3 p.m. Garmisch Chapel

Protestant Good Friday Communion Service, March 21
6 p.m. Garmisch Chapel

Holy Saturday Mass, March 22
4:30 p.m. Garmisch Chapel

Easter Sunday, March 23
7:30 a.m. Protestant Sunrise Service
9 a.m. Catholic Mass

Alpine sledding - the ‘other’ winter sport - now offered


This is not your average neighborhood slip and slide.

We cruise the whole mountain on lighted runs, adrenaline surging through your veins!

You’ll want to eat, drink and be merry at the beautiful Gasthaus, so let ODR do the driving.

March 18 – Ehrwald
Departs the Burke Center at 1800 Hrs. \$ 10 includes transportation and your own “Mini Bob”** Lift pass not included (€ 14).

*(Mini Bob – probably the most fun you can have on a sled with a handle).



Vilseck High School

“Real World. . . What are you doing?”

College Fair

•Free to all
•Anyone interested is Welcome!
•Location: Vilseck High School, Bldg. 1801 Main Entrance

SUNDAY March 16, 2008

4-6 p.m.

What’s Happening

Ansbach Briefs

St. Patrick’s Day fest

The 12th Combat Aviation Brigade hosts a St. Patrick’s Day fest Saturday from 3-6 p.m. at Hangar 2 on Katterbach Kaserne. Hosted by the 3-158th Aviation Battalion Family Readiness Group, the event features games (including bingo for those 18 and older), a bouncy castle, Irish music, drawings, food, and refreshments.

For more information, call DSN 467-2355 or CIV 09802-83-2355.

Easter Egg hunt

USAG Ansbach hosts Easter Egg hunts March 22 at Katterbach and Storck Barracks.

The Storck Barracks hunt takes place 10 a.m. to noon in the field behind the chapel. Ages 3-6 start at 10 a.m., ages 7-8 at 10:30 a.m., ages 9-12 at 11 a.m. and 13 and older at 11:30 a.m.

The Katterbach hunt is noon to 2 p.m. at youth athletic fields near school age services. Ages 3-6 start at noon, ages 7-8 at 12:30 p.m., ages 9-12 at 1 p.m. and ages 13 and older at 1:30 p.m.

For more information, send an e-mail to ans-mwr@eur.army.mil.

Free tax help

Legal personnel in the Ansbach Military Community operate tax centers in Katterbach and Illesheim. One benefit of the tax assistance program is free electronic filing.

The Katterbach Tax Assistance Center is located in the Army Community Service, Bldg. 5817 on Katterbach Kaserne and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Illesheim Tax Assistance Center is located on Storck Barracks in the Regimental legal office, Bldg. 6546, and is also open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Taxes are prepared on a walk-in and appointment basis. No one will be turned away, but deploying Soldiers will be given priority. Filers using long forms, additional schedules, or more complicated tax issues are encouraged to make an appointment.

For more information or to make an appointment, call the Katterbach Tax Assistance Center at DSN 467-2324 or CIV 09802-83-2324 or the Illesheim Tax Assistance Center at DSN 467-4511 or CIV 09841-83-4511.

Walk to Iraq and Back

The mid assessments and next open enrollments for the USAG Ansbach Walk to Iraq and Back program are Monday and March 24 at the Katterbach Fitness Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For mid assessments, people should bring their activity logs with their updated mileage as people with accomplished wellness goals will be awarded 2,000 bonus miles. For more information on the program, send an e-mail to karen.a.lewis@eur.army.mil.

Clinic closure

The Katterbach Health Clinic will be closed March 21 and 24 for the training holiday. The clinic will also be closed March 28 for mandatory training. The clinic will be open March 27 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Storck-Katterbach shuttle

USAG Ansbach Morale, Welfare and Recreation offers a free Storck Barracks-Katterbach Kaserne shuttle service on Saturdays. Pick-up time for passengers is at 10 a.m. in front of the Illesheim theater and the bus drops people off at the outdoor recreation parking lot on Katterbach. The bus returns to Storck Barracks at 2 p.m.

For more information, call DSN 468-7337 or CIV 0981-183-337.

Spring bazaar

Storck Barracks hosts its Spring Bazaar and Country Fair April 4-6. Vendors from all over Europe will sell their goods: wine, furniture, clothing, jewelry, and artwork.

Hours for the bazaar will be April 4, 2-7 p.m.; April 5, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and April 6, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More information on the event will be released as it becomes available.

Cleanup time

The community is looking for volunteers to help clean up Soldiers Lake March 22-23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers will be treated to a free lunch of chili, Buffalo wings, and chips.

For more information, call CIV

09802-1635.

Crystal factory shopping

Outdoor recreation is hosting a shopping trip to the Spiegelau Crystal Factory March 22. The trip departs at 8 a.m. and returns at 10 p.m. that night. Cost is \$65 for adults, \$25 for children ages 4-11 and \$20 for children 3 and under.

For more on the trip, call DSN 467-3225 or CIV 09802-83-3225.

Hearts Apart

USAG Ansbach Army Community Service hosts Hearts Apart Thursday from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Storck Barracks Yellow Ribbon Room. The new program is an open monthly education and information forum to support military families.

The program meets again April 10 from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Katterbach Chapel Fellowship Hall and May 8 from 9:30-11 a.m. back at the Storck Yellow Ribbon Room.

For more on Hearts Apart, call ACS at DSN 467-2553 or CIV 09802-83-2553.

SKIES Unlimited

SKIES Unlimited classes are designed to support, complement and enhance the experiences children and youth have at home, in school or in other CYS programs.

Classes are offered in several categories:

- Fitness—beginning tumbling, cheernastics, horseback riding, Keichu Do, parent and me tumbling, personal trainer—parent and me.

- Music—drums, guitar, keyboard, Kinder music, piano and singing.

- Arts—Children’s theater.

You can register their children at CYS central enrollment registration office.

For more on the classes, call DSN 467-4639 or CIV 09841-83-4639.

Paintball tourneys

The Katterbach Kanyon paintball facility host two tournaments as part of its 2008 season.

The first tournament is April 12 and the second is May 31. Cost for team registration is \$175. Teams will vie to be the best of the season with trophies awarded to the top three teams.

The tournament is open to people ages 14 and oilder. Minors younger than 18 must have a waiver completed by their parents on the day of play.

To register or get more information, call outdoor recreation at DSN 467-3225 or CIV 09802-83-3225.

Story time

The community libraries host preschool story time every week. The Bleidorn Library hosts story time Wednesdays from 10:30-11 a.m. and the Storck Barracks Library host it Thursdays from 3-3:30 p.m. Preschoolers will be treated to a story, crafts and refreshments.

For more information, call the Bleidorn Library at DSN 468-1740 or CIV 0981-183-1740, or the Storck Library at DSN 467-4675 or CIV 09841-83-4675.

Register to vote

The USAG Ansbach Voting Assistance Program officers are Mohammad Alkadri and Scott Hamilton. Absentee ballots can be applied for by filling out the federal postcard application (Standard Form 76).

The form is available at the garrison command group or can be downloaded at <http://www.fvap.gov>. The Web site also features an automated federal postcard application.

Filling out the form not only registers voters for an absentee ballot, but it also registers them to vote in federal, state and local elections.

For more information, call Alkadri at DSN 468-7730 or CIV 0981-183-730.

Toastmasters Int’l meets

Ansbach Toastmasters International meets the first and third Wednesday of every month from 6-7 p.m. at the ACS classroom on Katterbach.

Toastmasters is a way for people to beef up their resumes, enhance their leadership and communication skills, and become the speakers and leaders they want to be, said Nicole Stickney, a member of the club.

Stickney said guests are always welcome at the meetings, which she described as “dynamic and fun.”

The group is open to professionals, students, stay-at-home parents, and retirees. For more, send an e-mail to ansbachtm@yahoo.com or check out the Web site at <http://www.geocities.com/ansbachtm>.

Bamberg Briefs

Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day

Everyone can be Irish for a day Monday. Stop by the Bamberg community library and enjoy Irish baked potatoes and glasses of green grog! Also, children of all ages are invited to take part in a shamrocks and leprechauns scavenger hunt at the library March 19 at 4 p.m. Sponsored by the JROTC.

Take an ODR trip in March

You never know where ODR will go! Check out the great destinations planned in March. Take a hike through Little Swiss Saturday or take in some spring skiing during a three-night trip to the Austrian Alps March 21-24. Visit Cologne for the day March 22. Trips fill up quickly, so reserve your seat now. Contact the CAC for more information at DSN 469-8659.

Thoroughly Modern Millie

See the hit musical performance of “Thoroughly Modern Millie” at the Stable Theater this weekend. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now and cost \$9 for adults and \$7 for children. Family and group discounts are available. Call CIV 0951-300-8647 to reserve your seat.

Play bingo with the BSCC

Win big at the Bamberg Spouses and Civilians’ Club bingo night March 19. Prizes will be a variety of Murano glass and Venetian masks. Doors open at 6 p.m. and bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. in the BHS multi-purpose room. \$8 or \$15 packets are available and includes playing cards and raffle tickets.

Egg-cellent Egg-stravaganza

School Age Services invites all children ages kindergarten through fifth grade an “Eggcellent Eggstravaganza”, March 20, 6 to 9 p.m. at SAS, Bldg. 7669. Come join a fun evening of egg decorating, Dr. Seuss birthday celebration and a trivia game show about the incredible edible egg! Parents are encouraged to participate. Call CIV 0951-300-8698 for more information.

Community Easter egg hunt

Bamberg Child and Youth Services is hosting a Community Easter Egg Hunt March 22 from 10 a.m. to noon at Friendship Park. Age groups for the hunt will be 0 to 2; 3 to 5; 6 to 8 and 9 to 12. After the hunt children can compete in an Egg Toss, Egg Spoon Race, Bunny Hop Race and Egg Coloring. Call Archie Johnson at SKIES Unlimited for more information at CIV 0951-300-7452.

Spring Fitness program assessments scheduled

Operation Walk-4-Freedom and Civilian Fitness Program assessments will take place March 25, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and March 26, noon to 3 p.m. at the Freedom Fitness Facility. Enrollments, fitness and health assessments, and fitness consultations will be conducted at theses times. Contact Angela Hunter at CIV 09721-96-6793, e-mail angela.hunter2@eur.army.mil for more information.

Spring into Fitness fun run

Spring into fitness this March and participate in a 5K fun run March 29 at 10 a.m. at Bamberg Warner Barracks. Preregistration is available and free at the Freedom Fitness Facility. Registration is accepted the day of the event. The run starts at the track next to FFF. Medals will be given to all participants! Contact the FFF staff at CIV 0951-300-8890 or e-mail ernest.johnson@eur.army.mil.

Disabled Transition Assistance Program briefing

The Army Career and Alumni Program is offering a Disabled Transition Assistance Program briefing March 27 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Preston Hall, Bldg 7080. DTAP is designed to encourage and assist potentially eligible Servicemembers in making informed decisions about the V.A.’s Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program. Call your Bamberg ACAP Office for more information at DSN 469-8925.

ESL instructor needed

Army Community Service is looking for an English as a Second Language Instructor. For more information contact the ACS Employment Readiness Office

at DSN 469-7777, or log on to the Regional Contracting Office Web site at <http://www.usacce.army.mil/fre/>.

Learn to golf

Bamberg’s Whispering Pines Golf Course is now offering golf lessons with a certified golf instructor. Single 60-minute private lessons are \$75. Various offers for group lessons are available. Two students pay only \$105 for a 60-minute lesson, six students pay only \$19 each for a group lesson. Buy 10 private lessons get one free. Classes are by appointment only. Contact golf course manager Danny Brown at the Golf Pro Shop at CIV 0951- 300-8953.

Piano lessons for children

Piano lessons for children ages 3-18 are available now with SKIES Unlimited instructors. Cost is \$90 per month for eight 30-minute sessions. Register now at Central Enrollment and Registration, Bldg. 7340 or contact Archie Johnson at DSN 469-7452.

Army 101 class in Spanish

Army Community Service is offering an additional AFTB Army 101 class in Spanish. The free class will be held April 1 and 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the ACS Family Advocacy Program, Bldg. 7487. Learn about Army culture, military acronyms, benefits, Family Readiness Groups, support structures, and problem solving. Free child care is available on limited basis. Contact mary.thompson@eur.army.mil or call CIV 0951-300-7777.

Ejército 101 en Español

Army Community Service (Ejército de Servicios a la Comunidad) AFTB Ejército 101 en Español (Army 101) Abril 1-2, 8:30 a.m. hasta 1:30 p.m. ACS las construccion de aulas FAP 7487. Ejercito 101 esta disponible para todos...Aprenda terminos militares, las siglas, las costumbres. Gratis cuidado de ninos gratuito disponible! Para mas informacion llame al CIV 0951-300-7777.

Schweinfurt Briefs

Single Soldier events slated

Participate in Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers events throughout the spring. Come to “This One’s for You,” at Finney Fitness Center March 20 from 3-7 p.m. Enjoy a band, fun activities, and food and win prizes. For more information, call the new BOSS telephone number DSN 353-8476 or CIV 0170-725-6464.

Share music with children

Join the School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration, and Skills Unlimited for a Music Together workshop at Schweinfurt’s Abram’s Center tomorrow or March 20 from 9-10 a.m. Bring your child between the ages of 1 and 4 for a time of learning music in a non-performance oriented setting. Music will be learned through developmentally appropriate activities that support unique learning styles of very young children. Workshop is free of charge and space is limited to 10 slots. Call SKIES for more information at DSN 354-6460 or CIV 09721-96-6460.

Scrapbook with friends

Join the Schweinfurt military community scrapbook crop in the 299th classroom on Conn Barrack (next to the CMR) March 21 from 6 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$10 and includes dinner, hourly door prizes, and a free instructional class. For more information, call Wendy at CIV 09721-96-6141 or e-mail wendy.sledd@us.army.mil. Childcare is available as part of Child and Youth Services Parents’ Night Out program. Call DSN 354-6517 to make childcare reservations beginning Friday.

Get paid to get fit

Apply for the civilian fitness program or “I ran to Afghanistan” program to get hours during your workday to work out at the gym for a period of six months. Fitness assessments take place at Finney Fitness Center on Conn Barracks Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and March 19 from noon to 3 p.m. Call for more information or for a application packet at DSN 354-6793, CIV 09721-96-6793, or DSN 469-7043, CIV 0951-300-7043.

SCSC flea market

Come get great bargains on your

shopping at the Schweinfurt Community Spouses Club flea market at the Schweinfurt Elementary School multipurpose room Saturday from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. All proceeds benefit community programs through SCSC welfare grant program.

Last play performed at WHS

Come out to enjoy Wuerzburg High School’s last ever play performance of “Noises Off” at the high school auditorium March 20-22 starting at 7:30 p.m. Adults are \$5 and students are \$3. Be ready for some hysterical laughter at this classical comedy/farce. Call to reserve seats at DSN 350-7176 or CIV 0931-889-7176.

Dental assistant training set

The Schweinfurt Dental Clinic and American Red Cross announce the dental assistant training program set to begin April 7. Completed applications must be submitted by Friday at the American Red Cross office on Ledward Barracks, Bldg. 206. In order to be considered for the program, applicants must be able to complete 80 hours of class work and 200 hours of in-house training as a dental assistant at Schweinfurt dental clinic. For more information, or for an application, call ARC at DSN 354-1760 or CIV 09721-96-1760.

Easter sunrise service

Come to the Easter sunrise service at Ledward Chapel March 23 at 7 a.m. Free childcare is provided. Service is sponsored by the Protestant and Catholic services and is followed by a free continental breakfast.

Enjoy Irish coffee and movie

Tomorrow in the Ledward library kitchen, learn to make Irish soda bread from 11 a.m. to noon. Saturday at both Leighton and Ledward libraries, children can join the shamrock hunt through the junior books. Treats are given to those who bring shamrocks to the circulation desk. At Ledward library Monday at 11:30 a.m., bring your Irish brown-bag lunch and watch “The Quiet Man” while enjoying alcohol-free Irish coffee at no charge. For more information, call DSN 354-1740 or CIV 09721-96-1740.

Women’s fair Friday

Participate in the first annual women’s fair at Ledward’s Yellow Ribbon Room on Friday as part of Women’s History month. Fair runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with classes: Me, Myself, and I; The Art of Well-Being; What NOT to Wear; and Saving and Investing. A free lunch is provided. For more information, call Bonnie at DSN 350-6813 or CIV 0931-8806813.

Women’s History lunch

Come to Rohr Café on Ledward Barracks during your lunch break from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. for Women’s History Month “Lunch Bites.” Bring or buy your own lunch. Classes will offer an array of skills for the modern day woman. For more information, call Bonnie at DSN 350-6813 or CIV 0931-8806813.

- Monday - “*An Attitude about Gratitude*” by W. Sledd
- March 28 - “*Benefits of a Gratitude Journal*” by G. Warner
- March 31 - “*Will you Make your Mark?*” by J. White

See Amsterdam tulip parade

United Service Organization is taking an express trip to Amsterdam and the Netherland’s tulip parade April 25-27 and bus seats are available for only 89 euro each. Tour price includes entrance to the Keukenhof, Holland’s biggest flower attraction. Trip departs from the Volksfestplatz Friday at 9 p.m. and returns early Sunday morning. Saturday morning will be spent in Keukenhof where the flower parade will take place.

Then, the afternoon will be spent in Amsterdam’s dam square, with a chance to ride in a glass-covered boat through the canals (not included), diamond factory and wooden shoe factory tours, and finally a stop at a cheese farm. For more information, call USO at DSN 354-6711 or CIV 09721-96-6711.

Play auditions March 26-27

Schweinfurt Army Community Theatre is holding auditions for “And Then They Came for Me,” an audiovisual, autobiographical play by Eva Schloss. Auditions will take place at Schweinfurt’s Abrams Entertainment Center March 26-27 at 6 p.m. For more information, call DSN 354-6225 or CIV 09721-6225 or visit www.myspace.com/abramstheatre.

Experience Paris Fashion Week from the common man's perspective with Bavarian News Reporter Kristin Bradley

On the Catwalk

Story and photos by KRISTIN BRADLEY

Google 'Paris Fashion Week' and a slew of results will pop up declaring the semiannual week-long extravaganza the most elegant, influential and fabulous fashion event of the year.

The exclusive shows draw celebrities and industry insiders from all over the globe when designers unveil their much anticipated collections for the following season.

By some lucky chain of events that I still cannot believe, this simple Ohio girl was lucky enough to attend one of this year's shows and gawk at the beautiful people of the Paris fashion world.

As these things often go, it was a friend of a friend who made it all happen. One of my high school buddies who is now a photographer—since these artsy people all seem to know one another like some secret club—knows a girl who interned for up-and-coming young designer Esteban Cortazar, recently named the head of the Emanuel Ungaro line at an almost prodigy-like age.

Through this fantastic chain of events and who-knows-who, I found myself with an invitation to his debut Unargo collection Feb. 27. Of course, I attended.

The show was held at the Carrousel de Louvre, adjacent to the famed museum. Walking in was intimidating to say the least. I had put on my best "I'm trying but not trying too hard" chic dress and did my hair the best I could (without utensils, mind you—I

forgot to bring my power adapter) and found myself in an extravagantly decorated hall surrounded by insanely gorgeous people.

It was like one of those bad dreams where you show up to the prom in your pajamas. We stood in the entry hall for a fashionable few minutes before eventually making our way through the metal detectors and past the men (also beautiful) checking invitations, feeling terribly important as we glided past the invitation-less admirers with our noses held

only slightly in the air.

Behind the entire seating area ran a floor-to-ceiling heavy black cloth we parted to step into the graduated seating area that ran the perimeter of the catwalk, ten rows deep on all sides.

Opening the cloth and getting a first glimpse of the runway flooded with pale blue light was like stepping into a secret garden. A faint barrier made of sticks ran the length of the runway, splitting it in two so the models would slink down one side and back the next.

We took our seats (designated by elegant hand written cards with our names on them) and the dream began in full force.

As I was looking around me, taking in the impeccable dress of each attendee, a cloud of light began to move down the side of the runway toward us. A beautiful blonde woman was making her way to her seat followed by a buzz of flashing cameras and reporters. As she stopped at her front row seat, I tried to work out why she looked so familiar when it suddenly came to me: Ali Larter, one of the stars of NBC's hit series "Heroes." Ali Larter is sitting 20 feet in front of me, in Paris, attending an ultra exclusive fashion show "with" me!

What is going on? I'm not normally impressed by fame and celebrities, but, still...WOW!

Then another light storm begins brewing across the runway. Vivica A. Fox. Another one on our side. Eve. Then some New York socialites and fashion giants known to everyone in the room but me.

As I am trying to decide where to focus my attention (there is so much to choose from!), the lights dim and the serene sound of running water fills the room. The show kicks off as an incredibly tall, sleek woman snakes her way across the runway until she reaches the other side of the stick divide, turning to face and approach the bank of cameras on the opposite end.

The waterfall music runs for a few minutes then switches to an almost a capella song by a breathy, soulful female vocalist. Switch back to the waterfall, then back to the song. One after the other, 35 filmy, ethereal creations of gray, pale pink, and bamboo green, with an occasional splash of bright pink, glided down the runway in stiletto heels so

high that the models appeared more to balance than actually walk on them.

A few glorious minutes later, the models—one behind the other—take a final stroll around the runway, and the show is over.

Cortazar, a short and sprightly Columbian man, sprints his lap around the runway and the crowd stands and offers an appreciative, yet fashionably blasé, applause. The crowd begins to filter out, some moving backstage, some flowing onto the runway for small talk.

We navigate ourselves to the runway to mingle (well, others mingled, I observed), and I notice the floor is not hardwood but rather similar to a tight felt, great for traction, which must have been why the models were able to strut so effortlessly in heels so high.

We move back into the entrance hall and watch as models, celebrities, and the press circulate. The many Asian journalists milling about make the models—who unlike everyone else can't seem to exit the building fast enough—appear even more freakishly tall than before.

At one point I am looking around for a member of our group and almost bump into Kanye West (whom I didn't recognize until he was identified to me) and the small gaggle of reporters trying to get to him.

After my near collision with Kanye we leave through a crowd of people from the museum. I won't deny that it was a slight rush moving past them coming from the place they were straining their necks to see, feeling their eyes on us as they wondered who we were and what made us important enough to get in.

But a split second later I was glad to be back on the streets of Paris with the common folk, not having to think about how I can't even begin to compare in wealth, beauty, or Botox to the people around me.

Attending a show during Fashion Week may have been a dream, and one I wouldn't trade for anything, but I am glad I was able to wake from it and return to my simple unfashionable reality.



A model dwarfs a reporter during an interview after the show.



Courtesy photo
Esteban Cortazar



Grammy award winning hip hop artist and actress Eve, with her bodyguard close behind, shows off her fashion sense for reporters as she poses in an exquisite gold coat after the show. She was one of many celebrities, including actress Vivica Fox, actress and former model Ali Larter, and Grammy award winning hip hop artist Kanye West, at the Feb. 27 event.



The models' last lap during the Emanuel Ungaro fall 2008 ready to wear collection. The show was 23-year-old designer Esteban Cortazar's much anticipated debut with the label.

Students learn value of community service

Story and photo by
RONALD H. TOLAND Jr.
Bavarian News

Rainbow Elementary students in the school's Service Learning Club are getting more than reading, writing, and arithmetic—they're learning to help others, too.

The 13-member club of third through sixth graders meets bi-weekly after school to research and decide upon groups or movements they can raise funds to help those in need, said Katie Erickson, fifth-grade teacher and SLC creator.

"It is all about helping others," Erickson said, adding that the club grew out of work by the student council and only council members could help out. "It was my initiative to start it and I ended up enjoying the service part more. I saw the potential the project had and I didn't want to limit it to student council club members only, so I opened it up for all students and ran with the service club idea."

In the past two years, the SLC has raised funds with a snack cart sale for the veterans' Angel Tree program, sent letters to veterans in Veterans Administration hospitals, donated stuffed animals to project "Night-Night" for children in shelters, donated winter clothing to homeless shelters in America, sent clothes to

kids in Iraq, held a book drive for Books for America, collected small change to donate to the Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina, and put together a pet food drive for the local Tierheim, Erickson said.

This year's projects culminated in a drink drive for Soldier's downrange, a snack cart sale for an Angel Tree program for veterans, helping take pictures for school events, posting pictures of deployed parents in their "Hall of Heroes," and letters to veterans hospitals for Veterans Day.

The club is currently working on raising funds for a project to provide backpacks full of school supplies for homeless students in Africa.

The club members raise money through fundraisers like teacher dunking booths, pie throws, and their latest venture: a fund raising carnival in April on the last day before spring break.

All activities and causes are student generated, Erickson said.

"Once they decide on their project, they go around and educate the school on what they are doing. They tell them the cause, this is why they need it, and this is why they are raising the money—they become the teachers to the other kids," she said.

While focusing on research and service is a challenge at a young age, it reaps its rewards, said 11-year-old Colin Coogan, a club member.

"I like helping people," he said. "I thought joining a group that donates to charities fit—it's the results that are exciting and beneficial for me and it is really good to help and give to others who are less fortunate."

Coogan added that providing such a service allows him to realize what he has and that others may not be as fortunate, like with the flavored drinks that the Soldiers do not have in Iraq.

"I like sharing the wealth—it makes me feel special," he said.

Annie Macklin, another 11-year-old member, echoed those same sentiments when she expressed her excitement with project results when shared with her fellow students.

"It is so much fun! I love the feeling when we come up with an idea and then others see it and say, 'Oh that was so cool! You guys did a great job!' The results of the work we put into it really pays off in the end," Macklin said.

Erickson said she'd like to see the club work within the local community, too.

"I would like to expand it where we can go out into the communities—visiting the elderly and playing checkers with them and share the project, but we are a bit hindered with the language barrier and with transportation—but we are still evolving in our third year as just the service learning club," she said.



Katie Erickson, fifth-grade teacher at the Rainbow Elementary School and Service Learning Club coordinator, gives a research tip to Jesmarie Fernandez, 10, a member of the school's SLC.

Through their efforts, students also learn about volunteering, Erickson added.

"It is true volunteering in the sense of the spirit," Erickson said. "In connection with it, they learn about volunteerism as part of the project because no credit is earned."

Ansbach kicks off Army Emergency Relief campaign

Story and photo by
RONALD H. TOLAND Jr.
Bavarian News

U. S. Army Garrison Ansbach kicked off its annual Army Emergency Relief Campaign March 3 during a ceremony at the Storck Barracks Dining Facility.

Lt. Col. Tammy McKenna, commander of USAG Ansbach, opened the campaign with a few words about the Soldier relief program and provided the first donation before other leadership followed suit for the campaign that runs through May 15.

The campaign provides an opportunity for Soldiers to help their fellow Soldiers by making donations to Army Emergency Relief and continue the legacy of helping the Army take care of its own.

The theme of this year's campaign is "Army Emergency Relief: Strength for Soldiers and their Families."

Sarah Tipple, the installation AER officer, said the program is for Soldiers and functions strictly through their donations.

"We do not receive any non-appropriated or appropriated funds for the program, so it must run by donations only," she said. "Contributors have three options to contribute: by allotment, check, or cash and must submit them to their unit AER representative."

Tipple added that civilians can also contribute; however, they are not eligible to benefit from the program, but contributions are tax-deductible.

Last year's AER campaign was a record-



Capt. Justin Pullen, S-3 for 3/58, fills out the bank allotment form during the AER program kick-off ceremony March 3 at the Illesheim dining facility.

breaking year in Ansbach with the \$60,000 raised, doubling the garrison's goal. But Tipple says this year's goal is just as realistic and achievable.

"This year, two-thirds of our troops are deployed, so the goal was set proportionally to last year's achievement—with a 2008 goal of

\$20,000."

AER was founded in 1942 in response to Soldiers and their families needing financial assistance during World War II.

Since its founding, AER has provided over \$1 billion in financial assistance in the form of no interest loans or outright grants.

In addition to emergency assistance, today's AER provides educational assistance in the form of scholarships to children and spouses of active duty and retired Soldiers, along with support to surviving families of fallen Soldiers, and grants to widows and wounded warriors.

In 2007, AER provided more than 64,000 Soldiers, active and retired, and their families well over \$70 million in assistance Army wide.

AER provided assistance for the unexpected and financial stress including travel, housing, car repair, utilities, medical expenses, funeral costs and disaster relief.

AER assistance is available to Soldiers and their families, wherever they are located and the amount of assistance is only limited by a valid need.

Soldiers and their family members requiring AER assistance can contact their unit chain of command or go to their local installation AER office. For Ansbach, the AER office is in the Katterbach Army Community Service building and Tipple can be reached at DSN 467-2064 or CIV 09802-83-2064 for further information.

AER's Command Referral Program has increased Soldiers' access to AER assistance.

The Command Referral Program gives company or battery commanders and first sergeants the authority to approve up to \$1,000 in interest free loans for their Soldiers.

It is a way for the company or battery chain of command to be directly involved in addressing financial problems of their Soldiers.

Full details on AER's assistance programs may be found by contacting Tipple or on the Web at <http://www.aerhq.org>.

Remembering a mentor



Photo by Jim Hughes

Staff Sgt. Elana Duffy, A Company, 2nd Military Intelligence Battalion, salutes in honor of her co-worker, Dr. Stephen Kiss during a memorial service Feb. 28 in the Katterbach Chapel. Kiss passed away at his home Feb. 18. He retired from the Army in 2002 as one of the first chief warrant officer 5s in the military intelligence field. He continued his service to his country as a civilian employee with the Ansbach unit. Duffy and other co-workers said he earned the respect and admiration of superiors, subordinates, students and co-workers through his superior performance, and his pride and dedication to his work. Kiss is survived by his wife, Antje, and his son, Sean, 4.



Members of the Ansbach High School cheerleader team perform during the Department of Defense Dependent Schools Cheerleading Championships in Mannheim Feb. 23. The team out-cheered the competition in Division II to earn the championship. Tiffany Heard and Brianna Newby were named to the DoDDS-E All-Tournament Team.

Courtesy photo

Equipment maintenance keeps crews airborne

Story and photo by Sgt. BRANDON LITTLE
Task Force XII PAO, MND-B

You’ve probably experienced the sharp, annoying discomfort of every step you take while walking with a small rock inside your shoe.

Now imagine having to walk around for hours with that rock in your shoe and not being able to remove it.

An aviator can experience a similar type of pain during a mission if a piece of equipment, such as a helmet, needs to be fixed or just doesn’t fit properly.

The aviation life support equipment shop is responsible for inspecting and repairing this equipment for aviators in 12th Combat Aviation Brigade—and their work could help save people’s lives during missions.

“The ALSE shop takes care of personal equipment that a flight crew member, regardless of whether or not they are rated, will use in the performance of their duties on the aircraft,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Long, the quality assurance and production control non-commissioned officer for Company D, 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment. “This includes the helmets, the vests, and other survival equipment that might be needed if the aircraft had to make an emergency landing.”

“If a crew member has a helmet that doesn’t fit right, or is just uncomfortable, flying around for hours with it on can be unbelievably painful. After a while, that helmet can give them a sore spot on their head,” said Sgt. David Shafer, the NCO in charge of the ALSE shop for Company D. “That bad helmet could also fail to protect the pilot during an in-flight emergency.”

In addition to servicing their flight gear, the ALSE shop is also responsible for inspecting safety equipment such as seatbelts, fire extinguishers and first aid kits, he said.

Just like most equipment in the military, flight



Sgt. David Shafer, NCO in charge of the aviation life support equipment shop for Company D, 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, shows a Soldier the proper way to inspect his helmet. Shafer, a native of Zion, Ill., also teaches crew members survival, evasion, resistance, and escape tactics.

gear and safety equipment must be inspected on a regular basis to ensure that it is working properly. The ALSE shops in Logistical Support Area Anaconda and Taji are responsible for maintaining this equipment for nearly 500 aviators.

“We usually check the seatbelts and fire extinguisher every 60 to 90 days, and we usually do scheduled maintenance on the helmets and vest every 180 days,” said Shafer, a native of Zion, Ill. “But in the event something

(unexpectedly) breaks, or needs to be serviced immediately, we’ll take the item and try to have it ready to go as soon as possible.”

“I think those guys do an awesome job and their turnaround time is unbelievably fast,” said Long, a native of Elko, Nev. “They could definitely ask for more time to service the equipment, but they know how important that gear is to the mission—they work overtime to get those aviators back in the air with equipment that works.”

“Without the ALSE shop, we couldn’t continue to fly the way we do and be safe,” said Sgt. Christopher Zedan, a crew chief in Company A, 5-158th. “They do a great job keeping our equipment up to standard and working the way it should.”

Not only does the ALSE shop service their flight gear and safety equipment, they also show the crew members the proper way to use the gear.

“We give them the basic class on how to use the equipment, and how to perform preventative maintenance checks and services on the gear,” Shafer said. “This class is especially helpful to those Soldiers who have been recently cross-trained as door gunners because many of them have had little interaction with aviation equipment.”

During those classes, Shafer also tries to give them lessons in survival, evasion, resistance and escape tactics that some of the aviators may have forgotten.

“We teach them how to egress from the aircraft when they land on water and when the aircraft is underwater,” he said. “I also show them cool things like how to take Vaseline gauzes and make a small stove that can provide enough heat to keep a cockpit warm for several hours.”

Currently, there is not a specific Military Occupational Specialty for Soldiers who work in ALSE shops—they must train at Fort Rucker, Ala., for several weeks and take additional courses to keep themselves updated with equipment changes, Long said.

Keeping these aviators flying safely and their equipment working properly is a job that the ALSE shop Soldiers must constantly perform in their office and on the flight line.

“Our job is to provide these aviators equipment that is up-to-date and can save their life in an emergency,” Shafer said. “I know maintaining their equipment is, by far, the most important part of my job, but my favorite part of my job is definitely dealing the SERE training.”

12th CAB’s helicopters take on Big Windy-sized mission

Story and photo by Sgt. DALE SWEETNAM
Task Force 49 Public Affairs Office

Soon after kissing the lucky lady painted on the side of their aircraft, two CH-47 Chinook crews loaded up and took to the sky under the cover of night to complete a general-support mission over Baghdad.

The two five-Soldier flight crews belong to the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade’s Company B, 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, more commonly known as Big Windy. It’s a small unit with a large mission to support and a massive aircraft to fly.

Big Windy consists of 14 Chinooks that fly nightly to conduct corps air-movement operations. The Chinook crews move people and equipment across the battle space. They also support air assault missions on a regular basis.

“We pretty much take the fight to the enemy,” said Capt. Howard Titzel, commander of Company B.

Big Windy crews get the chance to see interesting loads that range from Hellfire missiles to Gatorade, said Spc. Cameron Randall, a door gunner augmented to Company B from 412th Aviation Support Battalion.

The Chinooks owned the night as they picked up and dropped off pallets and Soldiers at forward operating bases around Baghdad. The mission went smoothly as the crew moved efficiently and successfully to get the mission accomplished—just another night for Big Windy.

“The missions are really intense, but it feels

great to be able to fly one of the most protected aviation assets in the Army,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Colt Galusha, a Chinook pilot in Company B.

“It’s pretty unique. We get a lot of different missions; we go out and do a variety of things. It’s a lot of responsibility, but with our training and everything we’ve done, we’re covered.”

The flight crews consist of a pilot in charge, a co-pilot, a flight engineer, a crew chief and a door gunner.

Since this unit is pretty small, the Soldiers and crews are very close, and that results in excellent execution in the air, said Titzel.

The tight nature of the unit also allows the Soldiers to build a great deal of trust in one another, says Randall, who is relatively new to the unit but feels perfectly comfortable putting his life in the hands of his crew.

“I’m terrified of heights, but I have no problem being 1,000 feet up in an aircraft taken care of by Soldiers as professional and as competent as the crews and pilots of Company B,” Randall said.

Big Windy used to be a company-sized element with about 300 Soldiers and two flight platoons, but after its last deployment, the unit was reduced, Titzel said.

Now Company B reports to two different UH-60 Black Hawk battalions while in Iraq—for general-support missions, they work with the 5-158th, but they work with 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment for air assault missions.



Soldiers from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade’s Company B, 5th Battalion 158th Aviation Regiment, also known as Big Windy, oversee the loading of a pallet on the back of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter in preparation for a cargo mission over the skies of Iraq.

When most Soldiers are ending their day, Big Windy is just getting started. Big Windy takes to the sky at night which adds to the mystique of the aircraft and its missions.

“We only fly at night,” Titzel said. “The most exposure you get from us is when we fly over the hooches.”

While quiet and seldom visible to those around post, Big Windy’s mission is vitally important to the success of aviation goals in Iraq. Since arriving in country, Big Windy has flown 460 missions, clocked more than 3,700 flight hours, and the aircraft have transported more than 37,500 passengers and 5,710,500 pounds of cargo.

Non-aviation Soldiers fly Iraqi skies as door gunners

by Sgt. DALE SWEETNAM
Task Force 49 Public Affairs Office

Preparing food and repairing generators weren’t close enough to the action for Spc. Cameron Randall and Sgt. Jason Hutchinson—they wanted to fly.

Randall and Hutchinson knew their jobs in Iraq were important, but they both felt drawn to the door gunner position inside a CH-47 Chinook.

With the help of their parent units, both Soldiers volunteered to train and then act as door gunners for Company B, 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, or Big Windy.

“My father, being a Vietnam veteran and a retired sergeant first class, asked me to give him one enlistment as a non-combat Soldier,” Randall said.

“So I conceded and chose being a wrench-turner over the Ranger contract I had wanted. I saw being a door gunner as a way to get off the

FOB and (do good things).”

Randall and Hutchinson both trained for the position while here in Iraq, which is unusual, seeing as how most gunners train at home before taking to hostile skies.

Chinook crews can do this because the gunners are not trained as crew chiefs like the gunners in Black Hawks, said Capt. Howard Titzel, the Big Windy commander.

A Chinook flight crew consists of two pilots, a flight engineer and a crew chief. This arrangement leaves room for one more door gunner, and that’s where Hutchinson and Randall come in to play.

Training gunners in theater is based on manpower requirements, Titzel said.

“We only have a certain amount of paid flight positions, otherwise we’d train as many as we could,” Titzel said.

The Soldiers begin their training on the ground by getting familiar with the M240H machine gun. The prospective gunners then go

through several classes on crew coordination, aviation terminology and rules of engagement. After that, they go up in the bird and begin engaging practice targets.

Once they get familiar with firing the weapon while flying, they get their gear and go on actual missions and perform under the supervision of a certified crewmember.

The training process is thorough, and they are not allowed to fly solo, as door gunners, until the flight instructor is convinced that the Soldiers are ready to execute without supervision.

While the Soldiers were well-trained before heading up on their own, Randall said, all the training in the world can’t stop first-flight jitters.

“My first few missions, I was so far off in to the realm of the unknown, I didn’t know what to feel or think,” he said. “I was trying too hard to not screw up or to be nervous.”

“On my first mission, we were unloading pallets and my foot got tangled up in the cargo webbing, so, as the pallet slid out of the back of

the bird, my feet flew out from under me.

“I was convinced that I had messed up so bad that I was going to be sent back to 412th, but the flight engineer either didn’t notice or took it in stride because nothing was said about it.

“After that, I stopped worrying about messing up and focused on doing my job. It’s been smooth sailing ever since.”

Hutchinson, who recently spent three-weeks on a support mission in Kuwait, has been extremely impressive in his new role, Titzel said.

“I am very encouraged by his motivation, intellectual curiosity and energy as a door gunner,” he said.

Randall and Hutchinson will be attached to Big Windy for the foreseeable future, and both Soldiers say they enjoy what they do so it seems safe to assume that going back to their old jobs will be a little bit of culture shock.

“It’s not just the job I’m attached to or the excitement,” Randall said. “It’s the fact that I’m actually good at what I do here and I enjoy it.”

Being productive helps warriors in transition

Story and photo by AMY BUGALA
Bavarian News

The Bamberg Warrior in Transition Unit is looking beyond the physical injury in addressing the mind, spirit and heart of each injured Soldier by incorporating part-time work into their daily routines.

A WTU Soldier's priority is his medical appointments with his primary care physician; then responsibility to his unit; and then to his vocational interests or even a job, said squad leader Staff Sgt. Ronald Chitty.

Bamberg's WTU activated as part of the Army Medical Action Plan, as the first four wounded Soldiers arrived in November 2007, with that number currently standing at 22.

Chitty is charged with helping the unit stay focused on the mission, and, along with Kyshone Moss, a nurse case manager, is using the Soldiers' input to build and refine programs.

"Soldiers facing MEBs (Medical Evaluation Boards) are really talking about the need to adapt to civilian life," said Joseph Pehm, Social Work Services chief, who oversees a monthly support group for WTU members.

Support during transition is especially important for those undergoing an MEB, which determines if a Soldier still meets the minimum requirements to remain in the military.

To help deal with the mind and the spirit of a Soldier, "we treat the whole person – not just the injury – because it is about the transition as well," Pehm said.

It's about helping Soldiers, he stressed, to answer the question:



Sgt. Jamerson Hayward (right) listens to instructions from Spc. Donald Heitger, an Army medic, while taking Kyshone Moss' blood pressure at the U.S. Army Health Clinic Bamberg. Hayward, a Soldier in the Warrior in Transition Unit, is training to assist at the clinic.

"What will it mean to me and my life if I can't continue to work for the Army?"

Chitty addresses these concerns head-on. "All my warriors work, Bamberg is 100 percent employed," he said proudly, giving credit to unit and garrison leadership for their support.

Spc. Mica B. Kells, 23, was one

of the first Soldiers to join the WTU. Kells, a former mechanic with the 173rd Brigade Support Battalion, now can be found assisting Soldiers during in-processing at Army Community Services.

"There is a real need for this kind of program," said Kells. He explained how the WTU provides direction and speeds up the process of getting a

troop back to his regular Army duties quicker or onto another focus, such as school.

The WTU was a big change of pace for Spc. Chadwick Mollohan, 25, who has deployed twice during his Army career, and was also working as a mechanic with the 173rd BSB.

"I went into something that revolved around me instead of me

working for something," he said.

As a WTU charter member, he has been a valuable resource in developing and refining processes for the Soldier and Family Assistance Center located at ACS. Mollohan believes that having a job gives people "a purpose."

ACS isn't the only garrison agency working with the WTU. Soldiers have been placed in positions at the health clinic, Military Police, the Directorate of Public Works, tax office, U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, and the consolidated mailroom.

WTU Soldier Sgt. Jamerson Hayward is currently training to assist with medical screenings at the Bamberg Health Clinic. Hayward, a former Navy medical corpsman, is excited about the opportunity to use his skills to help others while recovering from his own injuries. With almost 12 years of active-duty service, he believes a program such as the WTU is "absolutely necessary."

"With this unit, there is no way to get lost in the system," he added.

Chitty said all participating agencies are aware of the Soldiers' restrictions – and their number-one priority: their appointments. Most of the work is administrative, although some Soldiers earn certifications they can use in the future, or do jobs that prepare them for a different military occupational specialty. In one Soldier's case, the work is directly related to a professional degree.

"I love my job," Chitty said. "There (aren't any) of my warriors working at a job right now that they don't like. They tell me, and their supervisors tell me, on a weekly basis."

Living successfully: making the most of long separations

by JON FLESHMAN
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

Friends, yoga, a family support group, online courses, England, and a toddler lifted Sam out of her funk when Chase went to war.

"The first few months after my husband deployed were miserable," admitted Samantha Windell, 24, from her home in Bamberg, Germany. "I wanted to stay at home the whole time."

When Spc. Chase Windell deployed to Afghanistan in May 2007, Sam had just arrived in Europe on her first assignment as an Army spouse, if you don't count basic and advanced individual training.

"Three days after I arrived and joined Chase, he left for a month of field training a month before he deployed," Sam said. "He's seen his kid all of two months of his life."

Damion is Sam and Chase's 14-month-old son. Dad was there for his birth, however, and he did get to see Damion walking when he returned for rest and recuperation.

"He's a miniature replica of my husband," Sam confided. "Every time I look at him, I'm reminded of Chase."

Mom and son aren't housebound anymore though. Every other afternoon they head to the home of best friend Lauren Kemp, whose husband is also deployed. While Sam and Lauren release their stress through yoga, Damion plays with Lauren's 4 and 5-year-olds Emory and Darby.

The families often share grocery expenses and have a meal together.

They also travel together. To fight the holiday blues they found discount flights, as moms and kids visited London for Thanksgiving.

"The biggest change I've seen in Sam is that she's become independent," said Lauren, whose husband, Spec. Dustin Kemp, is in the same unit as Chase: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team. The Kemps are experiencing their fourth deployment as a married couple, so Lauren has a veteran's perspective.

"Sam has learned who she is," Lauren continued, "outside of being Damion's mom and Chase's wife. It's the most important thing the spouse of a deployed Soldier can learn – especially during the first deployment."

Lauren explained that during this time of growth and change, communication between deployed spouse and home-front spouse is critical. She warned: "If not, hubby comes home and asks 'Who are you?' and 'What have you done with my wife?'"

Sam and son are definitely staying in touch with their Soldier downrange. She said her husband calls her every chance he gets, which averages about every two to three days. They also communicate by instant messenger and e-mail daily, and she estimates she has sent "a million and a half care packages." Additionally, they have Web cams that are crystal clear.

"When Chase came home on R&R, Damion ran to his dad. It was really sweet," Sam recalled. "He's at an age where he's a little afraid of strangers, but he knew who his daddy was."

Family-oriented activities that she can share

with her son are one of the things Sam likes about her family readiness group. Besides FRG special events, she attends monthly meetings and has found the group leader a good source of accurate information and support.

"The FRG opened a whole new avenue for me," Sam said. "You meet all the unit spouses, and the battalion FRG also holds events and will bring all the company FRGs together. Right now we're making welcome-home baskets for all the single Soldiers in the unit."

In turn, the HHC STB family readiness group benefits from Sam's professional skills. She has a bachelor's in political science, accounting and international business from Capitol University in Columbus, Ohio, and is working on a master's in business administration. Sam volunteers as her FRG's treasurer.

"She's helped to make sure our books stay right," said Janelle Walden, the unit's FRG leader. "She has given her knowledge to others and helped them with financial planning."

When the two first met, Walden remembers Sam keeping to herself as it was obvious she was new to Army life.

"Being an Army spouse is about sharing and mutual support. She is a true example of that and has shown herself to be a priceless asset," Walden said.

The rear detachment is another resource the Colebrook, Ohio, native recommends along with family readiness groups and Army Community Service orientation and empowerment courses. Sam said when she hears rumors about her husband's unit or just needs information, she goes to the rear detachment sergeant for the



Photo by Krista Browning

Samantha Windell and her 14-month-old son Damion check for messages on their computer from husband and father Spc. Chase Windell.

straight answer. And if the sergeant doesn't have the information, she goes out on her own to find it for Sam.

Samantha Windell's short answer to the secret of living successfully as the spouse of a deployed Soldier is simple: "Get out there – and get involved."

Community gets chance to voice issues at annual AFAP conference

by AMY L. BUGALA
Bavarian News

Community members came together to initiate quality of life improvements for Soldiers, retirees, civilians, and family members during the annual U. S. Army Garrison Bamberg 2008 Army Family Action Plan conference held Feb. 27-29.

Approximately 50 volunteers, separated into three focus groups, worked through a wide-range of issues submitted by the local community. The active discussions may have differed from room to room, but the one thing that was apparent was everyone's desire to be part of the process.

"The interaction between everyone was great," said Lt. Col. Gary Rosenberg, garrison

commander, who over the course of the three days visited each group and observed. "Each of us, in looking out for our own good, is going to benefit, because we all have so much in common."

Rosenberg said many of the issues that were raised affect a large portion of the community and he appreciates those who took the time to submit the issues.

"We can't fix it, if we don't know it's a problem," he said.

Mary Thompson, AFAP program manager, is a big believer in this process and says it doesn't matter how small, how large, or how life changing the issues are, without this forum you lose the opportunity to initiate change.

"In nine months of being in this garrison, this

has, by far, been the best venue for direct interaction with the community," Rosenberg said.

This year the focus groups discussed approximately 70 issues relating to consumer services, mental health services, retirees, child care, employment, Soldier and force support, schools, transportation, housing, and garrison support services.

Similar to brainstorming sessions used by big corporations, the conference generates a lot of good ideas in a short amount of time says AFAP volunteer, Katie McDonald.

Many agree the process produces a great return for the amount of time invested.

"This is the one thing that affects the Army as a whole and will for years to come," said

McDonald, who volunteers regularly throughout the year but always finds time for the conference.

So where do all the good ideas go?

All garrison directorates and supporting agencies will now review the issues and have approximately one month to respond.

"(We are) constantly improving where we are now, not necessarily for our immediate benefit, but for the benefit of us as an Army community in the long term," Rosenberg said.

Issues that can not be resolved at the garrison level will be submitted to the IMCOM-Europe level conference in Heidelberg, May 12-15.

Bamberg issue and resolution status can be tracked online starting in May at www.bamberg.army.mil or by inquiring at the AFAP office located at Army Community Services.

Unit Snapshots



106th FM Co. bids farewell

Soldiers from Headquarters Detachment, 106th Financial Management Company, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, Bamberg, say goodbye to comrades as they load the bus Feb. 26 to begin their deployment to Iraq.

The HQ detachment will oversee financial affairs for southern Iraq from three or four finance detachments at more than 10 forward operating bases.

“We’ll be very busy. We’re looking at (managing) half- to three-quarters of a billion dollars, so it’ll be a lot of experience. We’re really looking forward to it,” said Maj. Rebecca McElwain, commander, 106th FM Co.

Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson



Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

391st CSSB cases colors for deployment

Lt. Col. Ronald E. Pacheco, commander, 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, and Command Sgt. Maj. David Emerick, command sergeant major, 391st CSSB, roll up the battalion flag during a color casing ceremony at the Basics Building Feb. 28. About 80 Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 391st CSSB, will deploy to northern Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for 15 months to provide logistical support to U. S., Coalition, and Iraqi forces.



Soldier remembered during service

Soldiers and loved ones said goodbye to Pfc. Nicholas R. Ernst, a light wheel vehicle mechanic with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, during a service of remembrance at the Bamberg Chapel Feb. 29.

The 21-year-old from Elk Grove, Calif., is survived by his parents Duane and Colette Ernst of Elk Grove and two brothers and two sisters.

Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

New deployment-related books available in ACS

USAG Bamberg MWR news release

Various new books about deployment, employment, healthy nutrition, family, pregnancy, combat stress and more are now available at the Army Community Service waiting room.

“This is a continued cooperation between two Morale, Welfare, and Recreation programs for the benefit of our customers, Soldiers and their family members,” said Art Jones, ACS director.

Library director Karen Lazzeri has created several similar library outreach programs like the Children’s Book Carousel with books rotating through five different locations within the garrison.

Programs such as this provide service to customers that don’t regularly make their way into the library at Bldg. 7047.

The new ACS book titles can also be found in the family section at the library along with a series of books that address subjects specific to the Warrior Transition Units such as:

Assisting Survivors of Traumatic Brain

Injury, by Karen Hux

Chicken Soup for the Military Wife’s Soul, by Jack Canfield

Combat Stress Injury Theory, Research and Management, by Charles R. Figley

Healing Crisis and Trauma with Body, Mind and Spirit, by Barbara R. Wainrib

How to Take the Grrrrr out of Anger, by Elizabeth Verdick

Once a Warrior: Wired for Life, by Bridget Cantrel

Rehabilitation for Traumatic Brain Injury, by Walter M. High

Samantha Jane’s Missing Smile, by Julie Kaplow

Soldier Mom, by Alice Mead

Supporting Young People Coping with Grief, Loss and Death, by Deborah Weymont

Transforming Stress, by Doc Lew Childre

Traumatic Stress, by Bessel van der Kessel

War & the Soul, by Edward Tick

We Carry Each Other, by Eric Langshur

What’s Heaven, by Maria Shriver

Buddy Poppy Day



Photo by Amy L Bugala

Dave Mertz (left), commander, Erlangen VFW Post 3885 and Dave Robinson (right), from U. S. Army Garrison Bamberg VFW Post 10592 hand out red poppies March 1 at the commissary lobby. Mertz has been assisting with the Buddy Poppy drive in Bamberg for the last 10 years and appreciates the community support. The poppy is the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. All donations go to support the local post.

Mortimer shares messages of hope, keeping a positive attitude



Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson
Bob Mortimer, triple-amputee and motivational speaker, talks to Soldiers from the 16th Sustainment Brigade, Bamberg, during a prayer breakfast at Ray's Dining Facility Feb. 26. Mortimer travels around the U. S., and to Europe, speaking several hundred times a year at school assemblies, community organizations, and churches, ministering with a message of hope borne out of tragedy.



Photo by James Fredrick
Bob Mortimer also met with 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team Family Readiness Group leaders and senior spouses at Bamberg's Chapel Family Life Center Feb. 26. Approximately 20 women from both Schweinfurt and Bamberg communities gathered to hear Mortimer's insights into leadership, team building, and maintaining a positive attitude.

Horseback riding part of Schweinfurt SKIES classes

Story and photo by
SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

The SKIES the limit. There are no boundaries to the creative types of classes offered by the School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration, and Skills Unlimited. The Schweinfurt community can now sign up through SKIES for horseback riding lessons at Seufert Ranch in Hambach.

For only \$75 a month, participants between the ages of 3 and 18 are provided their own horse at the ranch for a two-hour lesson each week. Instruction ranges anywhere from beginner to advanced, depending on the level of previous experience brought in by each participant.

No previous experience is required—only “the gumption ... to sit on a horse,” said Tom Williams, SKIES director. There is even an option to take the lessons twice a week for twice the monthly cost. Parents are not required to be at the lessons but are encouraged to attend when possible.

Karen Linden, who heard about the horseback riding lessons through her children's SKIES karate class, signed up her 5- and 11-year-old girls right away.

“In the States it would probably be double what you pay here,” said Linden, who was thrilled to get her children riding. “They’ve always loved horses ... this is the first time they’ve ridden on their own.”

Linden used to show horses in the past and holds a degree in horse training and breeding; she knows good instruction when she sees it.

“(The instructors) cater to each child's need. They're extremely professional and knowledgeable,” said Linden. “The instruction here is really great—probably some of the best I've seen.”

The instructors speak English, have passed background checks and are CPR certified. They teach both German and English commands to the children as they direct their horses.

“I have fun with the kids when we go in the riding arena. They get better and better each time,” said Christina Seufert, one of the German riding

instructors and daughter of the ranch owner. The ranch has been running strong for more than 20 years, she said.

“It's very nice to ride different kinds of horses, and you can get over your fear of heights like I did,” said Emily Linden, 11.

But it's not only about riding. The children also learn about equipment and how to groom their horses before and after rides.

“They're not just learning to sit on the saddle and ride out—they're actually learning to care for the animals,” said Williams, adding that safety training is as important as learning how to saddle a horse.

“The improvement I've seen in the last eight weeks is great,” said Linden, speaking of her daughters' increased skills in riding and horse-handling, “and I think it's because of the instructor.”

For more information about this or other SKIES classes, call DSN 354-6460 or CIV 09721-96-6460 or e-mail the SKIES director at tom.williams@eur.army.mil.



Christina Seufert (right), a German horseback riding instructor at Seufert Ranch, shows Emily Linden how to put a bridle on a horse in the class sponsored by SKIES.

Bunker busters



Photo by Ronald H. Toland Jr.

Contractors use heavy equipment to tear down old bunkers in the Urlas Training Area near Soldier's Lake Feb. 11. Until 1995, the bunkers were used to store ammunition, but directorate of public works personnel say that for the past decade they have been non-ammunition storage complexes for local units. Tearing down the bunkers is the first phase for the Urlas town home development that will bring better living and shopping conditions for Ansbach Soldiers, families, and civilian employees. The plans for Urlas include townhomes and a shopping complex.

Open Wi-i-i-i-ide



Capt. Jaximillian Baylosis checks fourth-grader Ana Maria Ceballos' teeth during the free dental screenings for children at Schweinfurt Elementary School Feb. 21.

Photo by
Kathlyn Hofmann

**Do you have a story idea?
Let us know about it at
usaggnews@eur.army.mil.**

Soldiers decorated for Battle of Donkey Island

Story and photo by MARK HEETER
USAG Schweinfurt PAO

Col. Jeffrey Sinclair, Dagger Brigade commander, pinned medals for valor Feb. 14 on three 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, scout platoon Soldiers who fought in the Battle of Donkey Island throughout the night of June 30 and July 1, 2007.

Staff Sgt. Brian Nethery was presented with the Silver Star, the military’s third-highest decoration for valor, for having “heroically distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy of the United States,” according to the narrative accompanying the Silver Star.

Nethery was a section sergeant with a quick reaction force that was dispatched to support a platoon that was in direct fire contact with 50 to 75 armed insurgents.

Attempting a maneuver to pull watch over the on-scene commander’s fight, Nethery’s vehicle came under intense direct fire, which wounded his gunner.

“Staff Sgt. Nethery immediately administered life saving first aid to his wounded gunner and pulled his gunner down into an open seat,” before training his sights on and eliminating several insurgent fighters.

He returned to a nearby canal with the sole intention of rescuing a wounded comrade who could not extract himself from the battle.

Despite closing fire from the enemy, “Nethery low-crawled from his truck 10 meters to (the Soldier’s) position and dragged him back to his vehicle. Although outnumbered and under heavy fire, (he) never hesitated in rescuing his fallen



Sgt. Abriel Garcia, receives an Army Commendation Medal with “V” device from Col. Jeffrey Sinclair, moments after Sinclair awarded Staff Sgt. Brian Nethery (left) a Silver Star Medal and Spc. Tyler Aguilar a Bronze Star Medal with “V” Device.

comrade,” according to the narrative.

Spc. Tyler Aguilar, also with the dispatched QRF, was presented the Bronze Star with “V” Device, for his role in the fight and operations to evacuate several wounded Soldiers.

Credited with killing several enemy fighters

while moving into position, “Aguilar provided accurate covering fires while his section in concert with (the commander’s) element began to clear tents and buildings along the canal under heavy and accurate” enemy fire, according to the narrative accompanying the medal.

Meanwhile, his wingman gunner and four other Soldiers were wounded.

“Without orders, Spec. Aguilar took command of his truck and moved it into enemy fire to divert the enemy’s attention from the pinned down Soldiers on the river bank. While providing heavy suppressive fire on enemy positions five to 100 meters from his vehicle, (he) established a mobile blocking platform that enabled the pinned down Soldiers to conduct” casualty evacuations, according to the narrative.

Aguilar’s subsequent actions are credited with “expediting the casualty evacuation process and preventing the dismounted team from suffering more casualties.”

Sgt. Abriel Garcia, also a member of the scout platoon QRF, received the Army Commendation Medal with “V” Device.

“Upon arriving to augment the fixed platoon, Sgt. Garcia, a scout squad leader, assaulted the enemy’s position, assisting in the seizure of key terrain, killing of over 22 Al Qaeda in Iraq, and evacuation of four critically wounded Soldiers,” according to the narrative accompanying his medal.

During the operation, the platoon destroyed a substantial cache of weapons that posed a future threat to the entire area of operations.

“Quickly grasping the scope of the situation ... Sgt. Garcia attacked forward and selflessly threw himself in harm’s way to destroy the enemy without regard for his own safety,” according to the narrative.

“His actions on the battlefield embody the Warrior Ethos and are the standard for all to emulate,” the narrative reads.

Close-combat training hones Soldiering skills

by MARK HEETER
USAG Schweinfurt PAO

Thinking about training to be a close-combat warrior in today’s Army?

“A lot of them had never been punched in the face before,” said Sgt. Darrell Miller, referring to the 44 Soldiers he had just trained for two weeks in the modern Army combatives program.

“They were able to develop and build confidence over the week,” Miller said, following the certificate ceremony at the Dagger Brigade headquarters Feb. 25.

The combatives program is designed to give Soldiers the “willingness to close in with the enemy,” said Miller, a level-three instructor with more than 160 hours of training in Army combatives.

Moreover, the course honed Soldiers proficiency in one of two skills fundamental to Soldiering, according to Col. Jeffrey Sinclair, brigade commander.

“You have to be able to fight. You have to be able to shoot,” Sinclair said, before presenting each of the Soldiers with a certificate of completion.

Calling the course a “leader’s course,” Sinclair reminded them of the importance of maintaining their skill and confidence.

“It’s a perishable skill. You must continue to fight,” he said.

The value of combatives training on today’s battlefield was not lost on the Soldiers who grappled their way through the course.

“Especially in urban warfare, when you go into a room, you never know what’s on the other side of the door,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Porter, 2nd Platoon, 1st Military Police Company.

“You could be face-to-face with the enemy. It’s very important to learn how to take them out of the fight,” he said.

All the local battalions sent Soldiers to the training, which certified them as level-one instructors.

“We want to plant the seeds down in the formations,” said Lt. Col. John Nelson, brigade operations office, echoing Sinclair, who repeatedly told the Soldiers to take their knowledge and skill back to their units.

“You now know what right looks like with the fundamentals,” Sinclair said.



Soldiers slug it out during combatives training in February.

Courtesy photo

SES celebrates 100th day of class Feb. 14



Photo by Kathlyn Hofmann

Lynn Lauer (center) reads with her son Sully and his classmate Emily Jennrich. As part of their 100th day of school celebration Feb. 14, Claire Ramberg, Schweinfurt Elementary School second-grade teacher, invited parents to come and read with their children. Afterwards they enjoyed eating lunch together in the classroom.

WiFi hotspots installed in common areas, provide cheaper connection

by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

It follows you wherever you go: into Café Rohr, the bowling alley, Ramon’s Bar and grill ... What you thought were only places to drink, have a bite to eat, and a little fun are soon to provide “alternate escapes,” otherwise known as WiFi.

The new wireless internet network is about to follow you wherever you go.

All that’s needed is your own laptop or personal digital assistant with wireless capabilities: a standard internet browser and a WiFi compliant wireless Ethernet card.

Some newer laptops have built-in WiFi capabilities and will alert you to the presence of an available WiFi network when the browser is open.

“(WiFi) gives Soldiers an opportunity to access internet without having to enter into contracts with German companies. (Also) the fees are much lower than the economy,” said James Barrett, USAG Schweinfurt Morale Welfare and Recreation chief of business division for clubs and special events.

Currently, Rohr Café has WiFi

installed as well as The Commons and Rohr’s Diner, all in Bldg. 224. The Kessler bowling center now has the network up and running.

Ramon’s bar and grill and the Finney recreation center are scheduled to be completed by the end of March. The Irish Pub at the Conn Club is coming soon.

“It’s rapidly expanding in Germany to various casernes,” said Barrett. “No matter where you go, you can get connected.”

And perhaps one of the best features of WiFi is that your service plan travels with you.

Whether you’re staying here in Germany or you’re moving back to the States, WiFi can be found at numerous military posts throughout the U.S. Not only that, but WiFi, provided by Army Recreation Machine Program, has various roaming partners that will allow usage of their networks.

Service plans can be as short as one hour for \$3.50 but get cheaper as the plans extend longer periods of time: a day for \$9.50, a week for \$24.50, or a month for \$39. Payment can be made with credit or debit, Mastercard or VISA.

“I don’t think anybody will find it

cheaper,” said David McDaniel operations manager of USAG Schweinfurt ARMP.

In addition, WiFi, compared with the government internet services, broadens Web-browsing options for users, as there are no filters that block certain Web sites.

But there are some other things to consider before relying solely on WiFi.

Because of the portability of laptops and PDAs, there is no ready access to printing.

And even though WiFi boasts secure access to the internet, Barrett highly recommends having anti-virus software installed on your personal machine.

“If you don’t have anti-virus software, I don’t recommend using any wireless connections. It’s common sense,” said Barrett.

The final bonus to this new network is that all profits are returned directly to military service members and their families through MWR services.

For more information about how to get connected, call Barrett at DSN 354-6186/6715 or CIV 09721-96-6186/6715 or McDaniel at DSN 353-8667 or CIV 09721-96-8667.

SMS math team dominates competition

Story and photo by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

Schweinfurt Middle School student mathletes brought home almost all of the trophies from the chapter-level (or district) MATHCOUNTS competition at Wiesbaden High School Feb. 6.

MATHCOUNTS, a middle school competition program, was founded 25 years ago and was designed to increase enthusiasm for and enhance achievement in math.

“Last year I did it because it (was) good for me to work on my math skills,” said eighth-grader Dani Mitchell. “The PSAT was a lot easier because of what I learned in MATHCOUNTS.”

In the team competition, Jacob Bautista, Dani and Trent Mitchell, and Alexandria Curry, took first place above Ansbach, Hohenfels, Grafenwoehr, and Garmisch middle schools, after securing the most correct answers, given 20 minutes for 10 problems.

“These kids aren’t afraid of math problems. They take it as a challenge. If they get it wrong, oh well, it’s a learning experience,” said Schweinfurt MATHCOUNTS coach, Steve Richman. “We’re doing high school level math—I’d say it’s equivalent to Algebra two.”

All four trophies for the individual

competition were also swept up by SMS students: first place, Bautista; second, Trent; third, Curry; and fourth, Austin Eubanks.

“I didn’t know there was a MATHCOUNTS club at first, and Mr. Richman saw I was doing well in class and asked if I wanted to come,” said Bautista, eighth-grade.

Participants in the “countdown round” are determined by the top-scorers in the individual rounds. The countdown round is a fast-paced, oral competition where pairs of mathletes compete against each other and the clock. Bautista took home another first place trophy and Trent landed second place.

“It is a way to practice and learn more math ... you deal with math all the time like with money when you get your allowance,” said Curry, eighth-grade.

“These are well-rounded students. These are the kids that do everything,” said Richman about how these students participate in various other activities in addition to Math Counts. Many are involved in National Junior Honor Society, student counsel, Golden Knights, or Odyssey of the Mind.

The next competition, consisting of the top DoDDS competitors, will be held in Wiesbaden March 19 and is the determiner for who will go to the final national competition in May.



Steve Richman (left) Schweinfurt MATHCOUNTS coach, practices math competitions with eighth-grader Jacob Bautista and the rest of the students that come to the MATHCOUNTS club Tuesday afternoons at Schweinfurt Middle School.

Club Beyond welcomes new leaders to Schweinfurt

by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

Club Beyond welcomes two new leaders to its staff assigned to Schweinfurt, replacing the two that have recently moved from the community.

Sara Doughty, a native of Washington, moved from Heidelberg to Schweinfurt Club Beyond in January. Elizabeth Cable, originally from Pennsylvania, is new to the Club Beyond scene, but definitely not new to the arena of youth ministry.

“The Club Beyond regional director met with me ... and promised that he would get us two quality youth workers to assist with our ministries here in Schweinfurt and Leighton. He definitely came through for us with Sara and Elizabeth ... they have some great things

planned for our youth,” said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Thomas Wesley.

Club Beyond staff are vocational youth workers recruited from across the United States to Military Community Youth Ministries, the parent organization of Club Beyond.

These youth workers are often from the ranks of Young Life or Youth for Christ and are assigned for an initial two- to three-year commitment to serve as Club Beyond staff.

“I’ve always liked working with kids ... I changed a lot of schools when I was growing up, and I think something about the unsteadiness of military life kind of drew me to (Club Beyond),” said Cable, who went to a total of 10 schools between pre-kindergarten and college graduation.

Cable originally started her youth work at a community church, in summer programs and

camp, and with Youth for Christ.

Likewise, Doughty, in southern California, also began her vocation at a church youth group and later graduated with a degree in Christian ministries, entering youth work with Young Life.

After discovering Club Beyond, Doughty spent her first two and a half years in Heidelberg coaching cross country and track in tandem with her Club Beyond position.

As Club Beyond staff, both Doughty and Cable raise financial support for their positions. People and churches back at home donate money for them to be able to work with military youth overseas.

But that financial support doesn’t always come easy.

“As an adult who has a degree, it’s a little humbling,” said Doughty, explaining how they send out letters up to eight times a year to a large

mailing list of people asking for money and prayer.

Cable described raising support as stressful but a blessing because it makes her “rely on God and also other people.”

Now settled into their new homes near Schweinfurt, both have a common vision for Club Beyond in the community with service projects, retreats, and all sorts of themed events for the kids to “unwind and escape.”

“Youth ministry changed who I was as a student,” said Doughty. “I hope (Club Beyond) is a place where they hear that there’s a God who loves them.”

“(It’s) a place where kids can just hang out and be kids ... where they can let down that wall. They don’t have to impress, and they don’t have to have the ‘I’m fine and I’m tough and nothing affects me’ (attitude),” said Cable.

Youth sports receives three grants to better programs

by MARK HEETER
USAG Schweinfurt PAO

The U. S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt Child and Youth Service’s sports programs have recently received three grants from the Boys and Girls Club of America. The first is a National Football League fund grant, according to Daniel Jones, CYS sports director.

“This is basically for equipment. Our equipment right now is okay, but you always need good equipment,” he said.

The NFL grant will also be used to continue improvements underway with the flag football program, Jones said.

A second \$5,000 grant has come to Schweinfurt through the major league baseball Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities program, he said.

“We’ve got a new set of kids that we’re likely to reach out to,” following the recent turnover of personnel in Schweinfurt, Jones said, noting that the RBI program is not new to Schweinfurt. The RBI grant will be largely used for purchase of uniforms, program improvements, and field

maintenance, Jones said.

Finally a \$15,000 grant, not attached to a specific sport, is the BGCA triple play grant.

“It’s broken down into mind, body, and soul,” rather than benefitting a single sport, Jones said. “This is also part of the health and fitness needs of the community.”

For example, parents will be encouraged to participate and learn healthy eating habits with the children.

“We’re out actively trying to get money into the community to provide health and fitness options to our youth,” said Jones, who had to submit justifications to BGCA to be considered for the grants.

“I think it’s great, actually. The benefit is that we’re going to be able to give kids more depth in programs we already offer,” said Adio Toliver, the youth sports program assistant who helped Jones write the justifications and requests.

The bottom line for Jones is to get children to participate.

“It’s about getting the kids into the centers,” he said.



Players fight for the ball during a CYS sports game Feb. 23. The youth won’t have to fight for funds, though, following the announcement that Schweinfurt sports received grants from Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

Photo by Sandra Wilson

Pediatricians put parents at ease

Story and photo by
KIMBERLY GEARHART
Bavarian News

For Americans living overseas, a trip to the pediatrician often means heading to a German physician, possibly compounding the problems brought on by illness with the fears of cultural differences.

“But all parents and their children—whether they’re Turkish, German, or American— have the same concerns and problems ... the only difference is the language,” said Dr. Johannes Herrmann, chief of pediatrics at Leopoldina Hospital in Schweinfurt.

“You have to show that your heart is with the child, that you care for them,” said Dr. Reinhold Koch, senior physician at the hospital, of working with children and their sometimes-nervous parents.

Visiting a hospital for general pediatric care can be disconcerting to American parents, who may be used to visiting a pediatrician’s personal practice for routine care. However, many of the pediatricians to whom American patients are referred work in the hospital.

Leopoldina supports one of the most comprehensive pediatric care centers in Germany, handling high-risk births, neurological problems, and the every day cold. Leukemia is the one exception for the hospital that can be diagnosed but not comprehensively treated.

“Many times children born in other hospitals

that are sick or pre-term must be transported here to Leopoldina for care,” Herrmann said. This can often mean that mother and child are separated, he said. This practice is avoided within the hospital by co-locating the birthing ward with pediatric intensive care.

Additionally, the pediatric ward, which takes up the sixth floor of the hospital, includes a pediatric walk-in and emergency care function, located immediately in front of the elevators and accessible 24 hours a day.

When children are admitted for overnight stays, one parent is allowed to stay with the patient. For children up to 6 years old, this is a free stay for the parent. In most hospitals, parents must pay to stay with older children.

“But for the American patients, we waive this charge,” Herrmann noted, a practice unique to Leopoldina.

Additionally, if more visitors need to stay overnight, the hospital is connected to a hotel-style center known as “La Casa,” where they can reserve apartment-like rooms, according to Ursula Holstein, patient liaison with the Schweinfurt Health Clinic.

For Herrmann, Koch, and the rest of the Leopoldina pediatric staff, the goal is always to offer the best care possible for all children who enter their ward.

“Children get sick quickly, but they also get better quickly. You see them get better, and when they leave, 99 percent of the time they’re perfect. It is joyful,” Herrmann said.



(From left) Dr. Heide Leibaug, Dr. Maria Koester-Lueck, Monika Bauer, Dr. Reinhold Koch, Andrea Wager, Dr. Johannes Herrmann, and Dr. Udo Meissner are a few of the 130 specialists in pediatric wards at Leopoldina Hospital.

Nurse advice line provides peace of mind

IMCOM Europe press release

How many times have screams from your baby or small child roused you from sleep in the middle of the night and you wondered just what to do - try to find your way in the dark to an unfamiliar hospital, call an ambulance, or try to comfort the sick one until the next morning?

“It’s scary for a young mom or dad in an unfamiliar country, and no mother or grandmother to turn to,” said Lt. Col Karen Grace, chief of the clinical nursing services at the U.S. Army Medical Department Activity in Heidelberg, Germany.

“That’s why we recommend that our patients keep the Nurse Advice Line telephone number handy. The Nurse Advice Line gives you around-the-clock access to medical information and advice. If you’re looking for help anytime day or night, you can dial 00800-4759-2330 or 0800-825-1600,” she added.

The Nurse Advice Line is a service sponsored by TRICARE for beneficiaries stationed in Europe. It has registered nurses who

can answer questions, provide self-care advice, and help you decide if you need to seek immediate care, according to the TRICARE Europe Web site.

Science Applications International Corp. and its partner McKesson Health Solutions manage the advice line.

“It requires a special expertise to advise military personnel and their families about their healthcare, especially when the nurses are at the other end of an international telephone call,” said Raymond S. Crawford, III, MD, the SAIC advice line program manager.

Crawford reassures beneficiaries that the TRICARE Europe Nurse Advice Line has that expertise.

It’s not easy to advise someone about healthcare when you are sitting on the other side of the world and can’t look that person in the eye, so callers want to know something about the nurses they are talking with.

In a recent e-mail, Crawford described the nurse advice program as having “200 registered nurses, available 24/7 to help you with your

healthcare problem.” Crawford emphasized that the “nurses have an average of 15 years of hands-on clinical experience to advise you about your health condition and to help you decide if you need to seek professional help and where to seek it.”

“Our nurses are supported by experienced doctors and have access to the most advanced information systems to ensure quality healthcare,” said Crawford. The combination of patient information and clinical judgment allows the nurses to answer questions and decide which recommendations to make to the caller.

Crawford is proud of its caller satisfaction rate, which consistently remains above 95 percent. He said “with the experience of handling millions of calls, military beneficiaries can be confident with Nurse Advice Line recommendations.”

The TRICARE Europe website link to the Nurse Advice Line says that in addition to talking to a registered nurse, callers can listen to information about a variety of health topics through the Audio Health Library. Such topics

include help with managing chronic conditions like diabetes or asthma, and how to recognize signs of sexually transmitted diseases.

A typical month of calls to the Nurse Advice line shows that most calls are from parents seeking advice about their children’s illness and from adults or seniors seeking health advice and information about their illnesses. Other calls are specific to women and men’s health problems.

After gathering health information from the caller, the nurse has several options in providing advice.

SAIC statistics show that most callers (37 percent) are advised that they can safely handle their health problems at home, and another 36 percent are advised to speak with their provider by telephone. Around 20 percent are advised to make an appointment with a healthcare provider, while only 8 percent are instructed to seek emergency care.

“Feel free anytime, day or night, to use your TRICARE Europe Nurse Advice Line. Registered nurses are standing by – give them a call when you have a health problem,” said Grace.

Army to revolutionize health care with whole-person concept

by ELIZABETH M. LORGE
Army News Service

A change in healthcare began March 1 across the Army, the Department of Defense and the nation, said the executive officer for the assistant surgeon general for warrior care and transition.

Lt. Col. Marie Dominguez said the new six-phase Comprehensive Care Plan will help the Army not only heal a Soldier’s particular injury, but make sure its wounded warriors are healed in body, mind, heart and spirit and increase the chances that they will return to duty or become successful veterans.

Dr. Dominguez has been nominated to be the special advisor for Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs integration to Secretary of the VA James Peake.

Myriad of Issues

Soldiers are “in the Warrior Transition Units because they have some sort of profile that prevents them from performing their duty in their regular unit or they need complex medical attention,” she said. “What we discovered is that it’s not usually just one problem that they have. A lot of our Soldiers have relationship difficulties. They may have medical problems. They may have joint problems. They may have pain problems.

“We said that we really need to look at this from a whole-person concept, instead of just focusing on their sore need, and while they’re here, because they have some time, let’s sort of do a general tune up.”

WTU Reception Phase

Soldiers’ are welcomed to the WTU when they are still inpatients in the hospital. The nurse-case managers will introduce themselves and work with their teams of specialists to learn their care plans.

When Soldiers begin their reception phase at the WTU, they meet their triad of primary-care manager, squad leader and nurse-case manager, in addition to their battle buddies. They learn their rights and responsibilities, as well as the WTU’s rules and regulations.

“We said we really need to look at this from a whole-person concept, instead of just focusing on their sore need.”

Lt. Col. Marie Dominguez
Executive Officer for the assistant surgeon general

The nurse-case managers will perform risk assessments on the Soldiers: can they drive? Do they have medication problems? Are they at risk for suicide?

Phase 2: Assessment

Next comes the assessment phase when doctors, physical and vocational therapists, mental-health workers, social workers and others will evaluate the Soldiers in the four areas of body, mind, heart and spirit.

Physical well-being not only means the Soldiers are healing and going to physical therapy, it can mean they need to get back into shape or start weight-loss programs, Dominguez said, especially if they want to return to duty.

In the area of the mind, Dominguez said, the Army will pay close attention to Soldiers who have traumatic brain injuries and provide neurocognitive testing, and check for speech and language problems, problem-solving skills and concentration skills.

Experts will take a close look at Soldiers’ abilities and interests, what kind of jobs they want to do and what they can do. Most importantly, the Army is going to provide educational and vocational training for Soldiers in WTUs, and Soldiers will be required to participate as much as they are physically and mentally able.

Heart and Soul

In the area of the heart, medical officials will examine Soldiers’ relationships, how they are able to resolve conflicts and any socially unacceptable behaviors.

Col. David Reese, director for ministry initiatives at the Office of the Chief of Chaplains,

said the Strong Bonds program of marriage retreats is being expanded to meet the specific needs of wounded Soldiers and their families.

In addition to the regular curriculum focusing on communication skills, the program will be handicapped accessible and provide forums on challenges specific to them, such as grief and loss. Some chaplains have already begun offering specific weekends to wounded warriors and their families on an informal basis.

Dominguez said that spirit can include anything from religious support — Reese said chaplains will be assigned to all WTUs at the battalion level — to hobbies Soldiers’ enjoy. She said officials are especially concerned when Soldiers’ injuries make their previous hobbies impossible. What would a Soldier who liked to paint but has been blinded do for a hobby? Dominguez said they might help him or her learn to sculpt, for example.

Phase 3: Setting Goals

Then Soldiers, their families and triads gather for the goal-setting phase and talk about the Soldiers’ goals while they’re in the WTU and the milestones they need to meet to achieve those goals.

The goals can range from walking by a certain date to improving their relationships to starting their degrees. Dominguez added that family support, both in this phase and throughout the process, is crucial in helping the Soldiers heal and keeping relationships strong.

Phase 4: Active Rehabilitation

Soldiers start working on these goals during the next phase: active rehabilitation. Soldiers first

get classes on finances and benefits, maintaining body weight and physical fitness after injury or illness, maintaining a healthy relationship, medication management and avoiding addiction, the post-traumatic stress chain-teaching program and battle-buddy skills.

Then Soldiers begin their educational or vocational activities during part of the day while continuing their medical treatments. Dominguez said they encourage Soldiers to take classes online because of portability, but if a Soldier needs a physical class, she said they’ll provide that as well.

Dominguez added that the Soldiers can also learn job skills through apprenticeships and internships. Ideally, she said, the Army will have an opportunity to provide on-the-job training, especially if the Soldier wants to return to duty. In addition, many local organizations and even Microsoft are providing opportunities to wounded warriors and Dominguez said the Army can provide transportation if necessary.

Phase 5: Transition

As the Soldiers complete their treatments and wait for their medical evaluation and physical evaluation results, they’ll spend more and more time in these activities. Then they enter the transition phase.

Soldiers who are separating from the Army have up to 90 days to arrange for veteran’s benefits, find a job, get into school, and find a place to live with Army experts on hand to help and ease the transition. The final phase is out-processing.

Phase 6: Outprocessing

“We are going to survey our Soldiers, 30 days and 60 days out to see how are they doing, and if they are having problems, we’re going to contact the VA counselor and say ‘We’ve got a Soldier who just transitioned and they’re really having some difficulties. We need to get you involved.’

“That should result in a smooth transition for these Soldiers. We’ll be working together with the VA, because once they leave the Army, we still feel that they’re our Soldier and we want to make sure that they’re taken care of so we want to coordinate with the VA well,” Dominguez said.

Put some ‘DASH’ in your diet

by Col. DEBORAH F. SIMPSON
Directorate of Health Promotion & Wellness

According to the DOD 2005 “Survey of Health Related Behaviors Among Military Personnel,” 12.4 percent of Soldiers were told within the last two years that they have high blood pressure or hypertension.

High blood pressure is often referred to as the silent killer because there are usually no warning signs. Uncontrolled blood pressure can cause damage to the heart, brain, and kidneys long before it is detected.

Normal blood pressure is a blood pressure reading below 120/80 millimeters of mercury. The top number is systolic pressure and the bottom number is diastolic pressure. Soldiers with normal blood pressure should have their blood pressure checked at least every two years.

Pre-hypertension occurs when the systolic pressure is 120–139 mm Hg or the diastolic pressure is 80–89 mm Hg. When the systolic or diastolic pressure is consistently at or above 140/90 mm Hg, it is considered to be high blood pressure.

Some Soldiers are more at risk of developing high blood pressure than others. Risk factors include a family history of high blood pressure, being of African–American or Asian heritage, and sodium sensitivity. Smoking, drinking alcohol, diabetes, high blood lipids, and pre-hypertension

also increase the risk of high blood pressure.


Soldiers with high blood pressure may sometimes need medication to control the blood pressure. However, if the blood pressure is not too high, it may be controlled by changing eating habits, losing excess pounds, getting regular physical activity and cutting down on alcohol.

The Dietary Approaches to Stopping Hypertension eating plan, established by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, emphasizes food as a way to lower blood pressure. DASH, used along with other life–style changes, can help prevent and control blood pressure. DASH also helps to lower LDL cholesterol, which can also reduce the risk of heart disease.

The DASH diet puts more emphasis on fruits and vegetables and promotes low-fat and fat-free dairy foods; lean meat, poultry, and fish; and whole grains. Eating the DASH way has been shown to lower systolic blood pressure by 2–8 mm Hg. That is enough to significantly lower hypertension risk. The DASH eating plan can benefit the entire family, not just Soldiers with high blood pressure.

A complete guide on the DASH eating plan can be found on the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute’s Web site at: <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/hbp/dash/index.htm>.

Look who’s working at the Bamberg Health Clinic:
Spc. Donald R. Heitger II



Hometown: Born in Fort Wayne, Ind., but raised in McMinnville, Tenn.

Favorite Phrase: “Follow your dream and just remember you can be whatever you want to be.”

Likes: Working with people, coaching, playing with my son, relaxing with my wife, playing football, wrestling, or basketball, and darts

Dislikes: Being lazy (it’s nice but not very productive), nail files, and celery

Favorite Food: Biscuits and gravy. It has to be made by my Momma but it is the best.

Dream: I have always wanted to be a scientist. I am pursuing a degree in medical research. I want to specialize in nuclear medicine.

Description: Spc. Heitger is stationed at the Bamberg Health Clinic. He is in charge of hearing conservation, physicals, immunizations, and Soldier readiness as a medic. He also coaches the CYS wrestling team (ages 5-15).

Say goodbye to fuel coupons, hello to cards

Continued From Page 1

“And you can’t go to a register (on or off post) and ask the cashier how much of a balance you have on your card,” said Litch.

Cardholders will receive a receipt each time they use the fuel ration card. Litch said motorists should hold on to the receipt to keep track of their current balance.

If a motorist doesn’t know his fuel balance, Litch suggests pumping only one liter of fuel and obtaining a receipt to find out the balance. Once you find out how many liters you have on your card, then you can go back to the pump and fuel up without exceeding your balance.

“For example,” said Litch, “if you pump one liter of fuel and it turns out you have a zero balance on your card, then it is better to have pumped and paid for only one liter of fuel than to have to pay the German price for, say, 26 liters.”

Motorist can also track their card balance online at the AAFES Web site.

Litch said while cash balances on the fuel ration cards will roll over from month to month, the allotted monthly fuel ration—400 liters per month for most people—will not roll over.

“The Status of Forces Agreement between the United States and Germany does not allow ration carry over,” explained Dave Mattingly, the fuel ration card project manager for Installation Management Command-Europe. “Under the coupon system, ... enforcement has been impossible.”

In addition to keeping up with their pre-paid cash balance before pumping, Mattingly said motorists must take a look at the previous transaction receipt to ensure they have sufficient monthly rations available before pumping fuel. The remaining ration balance, along with monetary balance, will be printed on the receipt of every transaction and can be viewed at the AAFES Web site.

If a motorist pumps more fuel than he has left in his monthly ration, he will be responsible for paying the full commercial price of the fuel.

The ability to prevent ration rollover was one of the requirements in order for the German government to approve the new fuel ration card system.

Litch said there were a total of 25 scenarios that the Department of Defense, Customs, and AAFES had to test before the German government approved the new card system.

Esso and the German government lost a lot of money due to fraud with the current fuel coupon system, said Litch.

“Everything from stolen fuel coupons to fuel being purchased by unauthorized persons,” he said, noting that fuel fraud will be much more difficult with the card system.

Although the fuel card is more restrictive than the coupon program, there are several benefits, including:

Time Saver: No more lengthy purchase transactions for each book of coupons.

Multiple Payment Options: Online, AAFES shoppette/gas station, bank allotment, and telephone transfer.

No “Squeezing” at the Pump: No need to “squeeze” fuel to equal the exact coupon amount.

No Signatures: No need to sign multiple coupons for each transaction.

Safe and Secure: Lost coupons meant lost cash to YOU! Ration cards protect your investment.

No Expired Coupons: No expired coupons at the end of the year.

Other major differences between the fuel ration card and the coupons are as follows:

■ Esso stations are the only off

post facilities that accept the card. Aral will not participate in the program at this time.

■ The card must match the vehicle. You cannot transfer between vehicles because the card will match the license plate/registration card. Although a card will be distributed for each registered vehicle, families can also list several drivers on a single card (in case family members swap vehicles).

■ Motorists must show registration. Customers must show vehicle registration to Esso and AAFES store clerks to complete a fuel transaction.

The fuel ration card program begins this summer and will take place gradually at military installations across Europe. Fuel coupons will be valid until December 2008 or until vehicle owners activate their fuel ration card, which will be sent to unit and community mail rooms.

Fuel ration cards are unique to each vehicle and card holders must ensure they are using the card that matches the registration of the vehicle receiving gas.

Although it resembles a credit card, the fuel ration card cannot be used to pay at the pump. Once drivers receive

their card, they must take it to an AAFES activation site/facility before it is eligible for use.

AAFES will position a surge team at select communities throughout the summer to ensure a smooth activation period.

Motorists are encouraged to review the FAQ section at www.imcom-europe.army.mil/sites/news/fuelcard.asp for more information.

Fuel Ration Card Activation Sites

Grafenwoehr Main Exchange
Vilseck Furniture Store
Hohenfels Retail Store
Ansbach Katterbach Retail Store
Bamberg Warner Barracks Main PX
Garmish Main Exchange
Schweinfurt Ledward Barracks Main Exchange

Fuel Ration Card Implementation Dates

Grafenwoehr 11-18 Aug
Vilseck 11-18 Aug
Hohenfels 1-8 Sep
Ansbach 7-14 July
Bamberg 21-28 July
Schweinfurt 25 Aug to 1 Sep
*** ALL DATES ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE**



Photo by Katie Cowart

‘Rats!’

The Vilseck Elementary School music and drama club, directed by third grade teacher Carlen Young, presented the musical “Rats!” March 4 in the school annex. The performance was based on the Brother’s Grimm fairytale “The Pied Piper of Hamelin.”

USAG Grafenwoehr Community Family Bowling

Egg Hunt & Brunch

Sunday, March 23

Enjoy bowling at the Grafenwoehr Bowling Center on Sunday, March 23 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Everyone can participate in a Bunny Hop 40 Frame Game to win great prizes. Kids bowl free!

For more info, call the Graf Bowling Center at DSN: 475-6177.

Rowell receives Bronze star for heroic actions in Iraq

Continued From Page 1

The award was presented by the commander of the Joint Multinational Training Command, Brig. Gen. David Hogg.

His actions indicated by the “V” device distinguishes Rowell as only one of 1,843 Soldiers to have performed an act of combat heroism or valor since Operation Iraqi Freedom began in March 2003.

Rowell’s story of combat heroism began September 10, 2007, while serving as weapons squad leader in a hostile neighborhood in southern Baghdad.

His company was told to establish observation points, and they moved through the night. As morning prayers began, they occupied a building and established security rotations and a rest plan.

At 11 a.m. their position was compromised. “We started taking fire from everywhere,” Rowell said, “then some guy comes walking into our building.”

The man screamed in Arabic in what Rowell thought was an attempt to gain information.

“The translator was not with us...it seemed like (the guy) was fishing for information. He knew somebody was in the building.”

The man ran when confronted. Shots rang out moments later as the observation point came under direct fire from six enemy locations. Rowell, with his squad and a gun team attempted to collapse their position during a lull in the fight and relocate with the rest of the platoon.

The squad lined up and prepared to exit the building. An improvised explosive device, Rowell now believes to have been placed by the stranger, exploded. The blast launched one Soldier across the street and severed the foot of another. The Soldiers located inside the building at the time received shrapnel wounds and were blown back into the building and stairwell.

Rowell received shrapnel wounds and a concussion from the blast.

“When I woke up, there was dust everywhere and I could not see anything,” Rowell said. “Everybody was running back up the stairs because rounds were coming in.”

The squad leader turned to climb the stairs

when he heard something that made him stop.

“I started hearing faint screams and cries and I thought that was the team out there, by themselves, wounded and there was blood everywhere. The dust started clearing and I saw (a Soldier) there,” Rowell explained.

The injured Rowell ran to the Soldier’s side. “The rounds started coming in again, so basically with all the debris, I ended up dragging him out of the street into the doorway.”

Bullets continued to hit the door as Rowell called for the medic. His fellow Soldiers were unable to suppress the fire, so Rowell returned to the street in an effort to both suppress the enemy and allow his Soldiers access to the windows to return fire.

Rowell remained in the street and began directing the Quick Reaction Force as they arrived. He helped evacuate the wounded Soldiers as he returned fire.

At 12:15 p.m., Rowell returned fire from the hatch of a Stryker vehicle as he and his comrades left the area.

Rowell’s commander viewed his actions that day as heroic. Rowell viewed his actions as part of his job.

“He will tell you that he was just doing his job,” Hogg said. “But in that type of environment and situation, to be able to have that sense of awareness and responsibility ... to take care of your Soldiers and do the right thing even under fire at the risk of yourself... that is just remarkable.”

The Bronze Star for Valor marks the second time Rowell has been awarded for gallantry in combat. Rowell received the Silver Star in 2004 during his first deployment to Iraq.

Only 385 Silver Stars have been awarded since OIF began. The two awards show, according to Hogg, that Rowell “is absolutely one of our young American heroes.”

“It speaks highly of the family overall,” Hogg continued. “(Rowell’s wife) is one of the unsung heroes because she continues to support her husband in a very positive manner.”

Rowell does not view himself as a hero however.

“I’m just an ordinary person,” he stated. “I did my job.”

Community holds elections

Continued From Page 1

Pressath: Konrad Merkl (elected in May 2007 due to illness of incumbent mayor)

Hohenfels: Run-off election between Bernhard Graf and Reinhold Kollroß
Schmidmuehlen: Peter Braun

Weiden: Kurt Seggewiss (elected in October 2007 due to illness of incumbent mayor)

Amberg: Wolfgang Dandorfer (re-elected)

County Commissioners:
Neustadt/Waldnaab: Simon Wittmann (re-elected)

Amberg-Sulzbach: Run-off election between the incumbent Armin Nentwig and Richard Reisinger

Tirschenreuth: Run-off election between Herbert Hahn and Wolfgang Lippert. The incumbent retired.

Neumarkt: Albert Löhner (re-elected)

Don’t forget to tell them you read it in the Bavarian News !

12th CAB boxer wins All-Army title

Ansbach Soldier named Army's No. 1 in his weight class

by Sgt. DALE SWEETNAM
Task Force 49 Public Affairs Office

Pound for pound, Spc. Adrian Orrostieta is now one of the best boxers in the Army.

Orrostieta, who just a few months ago was bandaging wounds and stabilizing sprains for Soldiers in Iraq as a combat medic in the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade's 412th Aviation Support Battalion, is now considered the best boxer in the Army's 141-pound weight class after winning his matches in the 2008 All-Army Boxing Championships at Fort Huachuca in January.

"Winning All-Army was a great experience and an eye-opener for the skill level that I have," said Orrostieta.

Orrostieta fought his way through the Army championships and then continued on to the Armed Forces Boxing Championships at Camp Lejeune, N.C. from Feb. 4 to 7.

Ready for a rematch

Orrostieta's dream winning the tournament was ended with a loss to one of the Marine competitors, but he wasn't fazed and, he says, he's already looking forward to the rematch.

"I am going to get my rematch from the loss I took in the Armed Forces Championship," he said.

"He is ranked 10th in the nation, but I'm going to get my win against him in the national tournament in March."

Orrostieta may have lost his match, but the Army continued its dominance in armed forces by winning their 17th consecutive team



U. S. Army photo

Spc. Adrian Orrostieta, a combat medic for the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade's 412th Aviation Support Battalion and, now, the Army's best 141 pound boxer is shown in action against another Army boxer at the all-Army boxing tournament.

championship at the Armed Forces Boxing Championship.

The team's dominant performance in the tournament illustrates the kind of Army boxing tradition that now includes Orrostieta.

He made his impression in Army boxing quickly, but his competitive boxing future didn't materialize until the last minute when a fellow

Soldier walked in to his office and told him he should sign up.

Boxing for the Army had always been an aspiration of Orrostieta's, but being deployed made things a little more complicated at first, said Sgt. 1st Class Danielle Whitaker, his platoon sergeant.

"(Being a boxer) was his goal, but being that

mission is first," said Whitaker, "the focus was not on sending him to All-Army boxing, but the command supported it and he was able to go."

Battle buddies making a difference

Orrostieta says he's grateful to all the Soldiers in his unit who helped him every step of the way.

"My chain of command and fellow Soldiers have all been very supportive about me trying out for the team," he said.

After rushing his application, Orrostieta was in, and now, it looks like boxing will be his life for the next few years.

With his win in the All-Army Boxing Championships Orrostieta has secured a spot on the Army's World Class Athlete Program.

He's definitely ready for the rigorous training program he will be exposed to at Fort Carson, said Whitaker.

"He worked out twice a day (while in Iraq)," Whitaker said. "He would work out until he was about to pass out."

Full time workout

Following the national tournament in March, Orrostieta will return to his home station in Germany where his chain of command will sign the paperwork and send him to Fort Carson to train full time.

The transition to Army boxing will be an easy one for Orrostieta, says Whitaker, because he regularly scored higher than 350 on his Army physical fitness tests.

"He's a driven young man," he said. "He's focused and he's going to do well in Army boxing."

Boxing may be a dying sport in the civilian world, but in the Army, it's an institution and Orrostieta's passion for boxing will be a valuable asset to the team.

"I box for the excitement," Orrostieta said. "You see all the hard work you put into this sport paying off in the ring."

Grizzlies slam-dunk HHC 1-4 Infantry, 39-23, during finals

Story and photo by TROY DARR
USAG Hohenfels PAO

The Grizzlies defeated HHC 1-4 Infantry, 39-23, in the final game of the Hohenfels garrison unit-level basketball championship Feb. 28 to earn the right to represent Hohenfels in the Europe-level competition.

During regular season play, 1-4 Infantry went undefeated with a 10-0 record, followed by the Falcons, 8-2, and Grizzlies, 5-5.

During championship play Feb. 19-28, the Grizzlies upset 1-4 Infantry and the Falcons with matching 37-23 victories in the third and fifth games bumping both teams into the losers' brackets.

In game seven of the championship, 1-4 Infantry redeemed themselves with a 36-32 victory over the Falcons giving them the opportunity to face the Grizzlies once again.

In the eighth game of the series, 1-4 Infantry trounced the Grizzlies, 32-23, with David Bass scoring 14 points and Gregory King and Dandre Wilson each sinking two three-pointers.

"When we came out tonight we knew what the game plan we wanted was," said Grizzlies Coach Walter Davis, "but the team had changed up a little, and it caught some of our guys

off guard."

"By the time we figured out what was going on, we were 16 points behind, and we were never able to close the gap," he said.

The Grizzlies' top shooters were Cordell Gailliard with 10 points, Dannie Cheesboro with eight points including two from the three point line, and Jody Petery with one three pointer.

Because game eight was the Grizzlies' first loss in championship play, the two teams had to face off again in a winner take all match.

Although attendance for the championship was light, some diehard basketball fans were surprised when the Grizzlies managed to defeat 1-4 Infantry in the final game because of the disparity in their regular season showings.

"During the second game we knew what we wanted to do, and we were able to execute," said Davis. "It was easy to maintain the focus. We kept the game calm, and everybody knew what to do."

"It was a great game," he said. "It got a little rough, but we had a great time."

The Grizzlies top shooters in the final game were Gailliard with 18 points and Cheeseboro and John Stark each scoring six points.

1-4 Infantry Coach Robert Reeves

said the unit's training schedule made organizing practices a challenge.

"We didn't have a lot of practice time because they were all in the box," he said. "We had to rediscover all over again that we're all ball players."

After their success throughout the season, the 1-4 Infantry players were showing some stress at their inability to rack up points against the Grizzlies.

"Captain Bass kinda got frustrated, but he's still the man to go to," said Reeves.

Bass was 1-4 Infantry's top scorer in the final game with 12 points followed by Mayoan Santana with six points.

"You gotta keep your feet moving when you play defensive," said Reeves. "When there's a loose ball you have to go after it like you want it. You can't just stop because you think someone might get there first."

The Grizzlies go on to represent U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels at the Installation Management Command – Europe competition in Wiesbaden tomorrow through Sunday.

"We haven't thought that far out yet," said Davis about the Europe-level competition.

"We have to figure out the game and the rotations," he said. "We know we're going to be there, but we just don't have a plan yet."



Cordell Gailliard of the Grizzlies goes up for a two-pointer during the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels unit-level basketball championship Feb. 28. Gailliard scored 18 points in the final game of the competition to lead his team to victory over HHC 1-4 Infantry.

USAG Grafenwoehr

Softball

Community Level Softball Team Registration
Men and Women-Open to DOD ID Cardholders
March 1-31, 2008

Unit Level Softball League Registration
Men and Women-Open to all Units in Grafenwoehr and Vilseck
April 1-30, 2008

USAG Grafenwoehr Softball Officials and Coaches Clinic and Tny
Vilseck, Germany
April 29-May 4, 2008

For information, call The Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center at DSN: 475-1007 or CIV: 09641-83-9007. Call the Vilseck Sports Office at DSN: 476-2214 or CIV: 09662-83-2214

Basketball tournament set

Mannheim Public Affairs press release

Mannheim Military Community is gearing up to co-host once more the International Albert-Schweitzer Youth Basketball tournament, scheduled for March 22-29.

This year marks the 50th anniversary and 24th edition of this tournament, labeled the unofficial world championships of junior basketball players of the under-18 age group. Represented this year will be the teams from all five continents. There will also be one All-Star U.S. team consisting of students from various stateside and DoDDS Europe high schools.

Past players include Ervin "Magic" Johnson, Baron Davis, Tim Duncan,

Vince Carter, Jermaine O'Neal, Bonzi Wells, Glen Rice, Carlos Boozer, and Dirk Nowitzki.

The U.S. team will play at the Benjamin Franklin Village Sports Arena, Bldg. 736.

Day-tickets for the Schweitzer are on sale for ID Card Holders at the Rhein-Neckar offices of USO. For ticket information, call DSN 385-3668/3195 or CIV (0621) 730-3668/3195.

Reservations for daily tickets for the semi-finals and finals (March 28 & 29) can also be made at the German Basketball Federation's office by calling CIV (02331) 106150.

For more information, check the AST homepage at <http://www.ast-basketball.de/>.

Legendary Harlem Globetrotters as *magical* as ever, performing in Bamberg tomorrow night

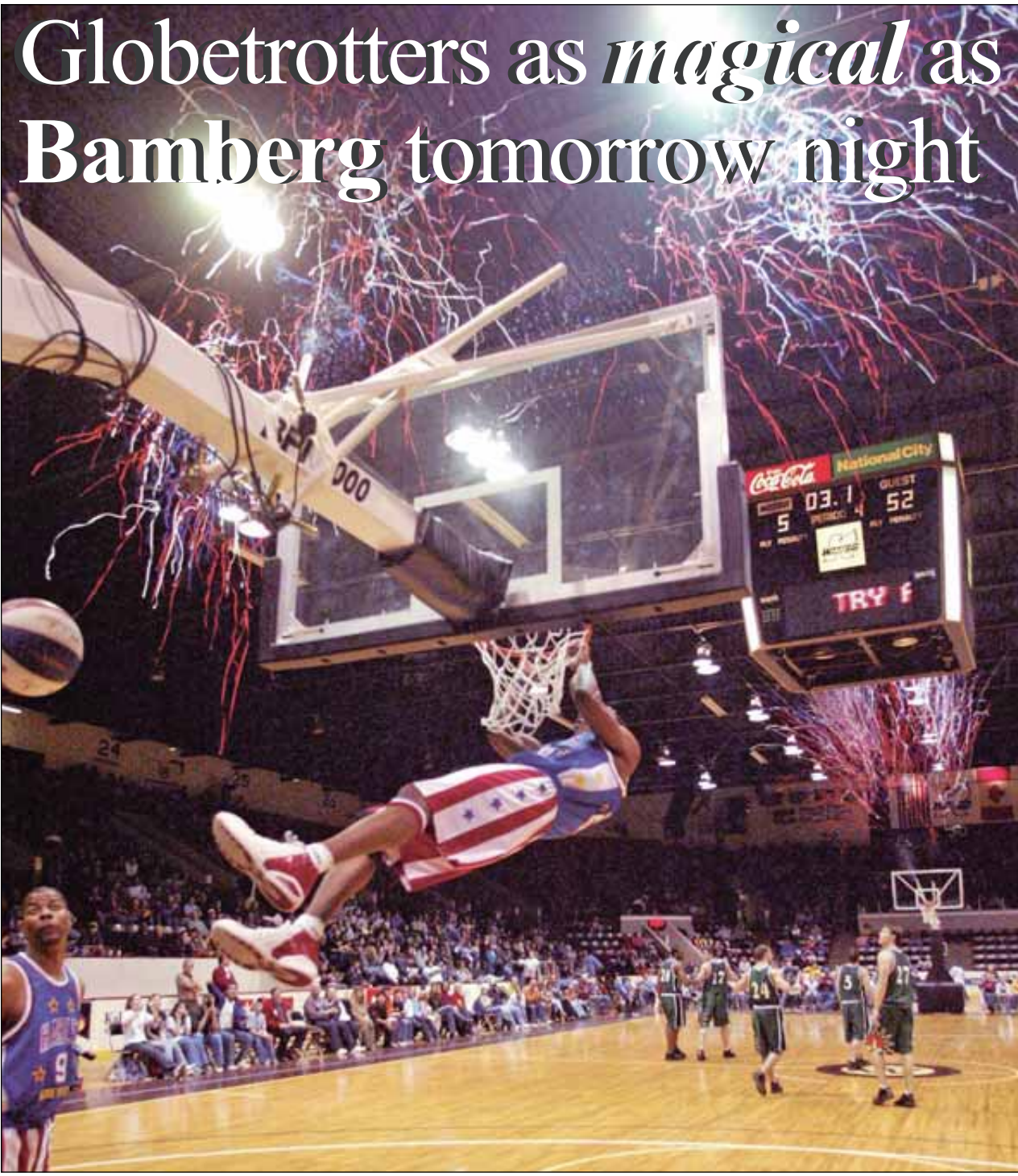
IMCOM-E news release

IMCOM-Europe Region, Morale, Welfare and Recreation is sponsoring the Harlem Globetrotters show tomorrow at 7 p.m. at Bamberg's JAKO Arena. The team is as magical as ever and ready to dribble their way into the hearts of every child and adult watching their legendary basketball show. The team, have been touring with their basketball show since 1972, making basketball and their unique way of playing popular all over the world. The Globetrotters have played in 118 countries on six continents, entertaining over 125 million fans and crossing barriers between cultures, societies, and people from all walks of life. You will laugh to tears when the team does their unbelievable jokes. Don't miss the perfect evening with basketball legends. Tickets can be purchased at www.kartenkiosk-bamberg.de or www.tix-online.com, or call the ticket hotline at Bamberg CIV 0951-2-3837.



Don't miss out on the performance of a lifetime. Get your tickets today at www.kartenkiosk-bamberg.de or www.tix-online.com, or call Bamberg's ticket hotline at CIV 0951-2-3837.

Courtesy photos



Cheer Championships

Cheerleaders from throughout U.S. Army Europe competed in the All-Europe Cheer Championships 2008 Feb. 23 in the Sports Arena in Mannheim. U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach's high school team took first in Division 2.

Photos by Kelli Bland, Herald Post



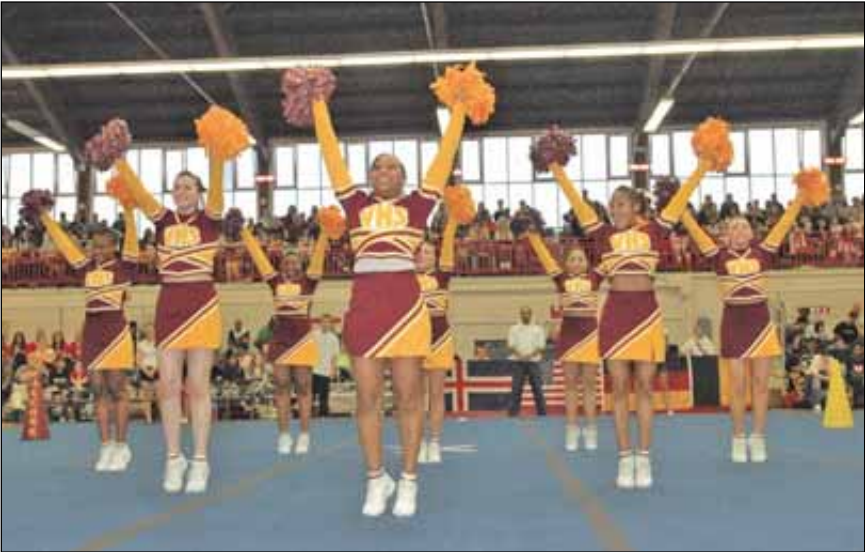
Bamberg High School



Hohenfels High School



Ansbach High School



Vilseck High School



Wuerzburg High School

Cheerleaders don't play the field; they rule the sidelines!

Go, fight, win!